The Commemorative Trail

The Journal of the Society for U.S. Commemorative Coins
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In this issue...

AN INSIDE VIEW
OF
COLLECTING COMMEMORATIVES

Part I

by Q. David Bowers

SOCIETY FOR U.S. COMMEMORATIVE COINS

A Not-for-Profit Corporation

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Society Officers: August 1993 to August 1994

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Vice President ..... Anthony Swiatek

Secretary ..... Jane E. Benson

Treasurer ..... Frank W. DuVall

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ANA Club Reps ..... Frank W. DuVall & Helen L. Carmody

Journal Editor ..... Helen L. Carmody

Welcome to ***The Commemorative Trail*** *Spring Issue - 1994*

* * *

We hope you believe our journal is meeting your requirements for informative and entertaining reading. However, without ***your*** *input we are unable to fulfill our responsibilities to present the "best bargain in numismatics." Please submit your articles today; we need your involvement to make this publication* ***ours*** *in every sense of the word!*

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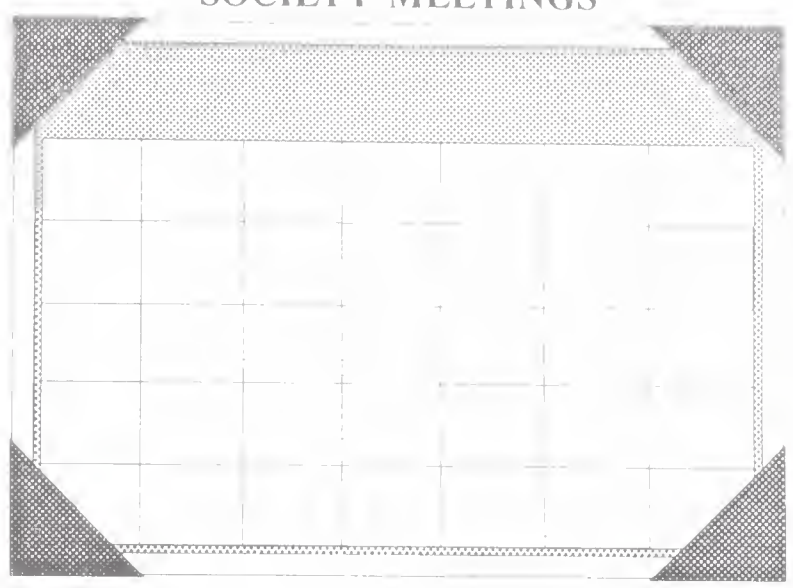
COVER PHOTO: "An Inside View of Collecting Commemoratives" by Q. David Bowers is an in depth feature written by one of the most prominent numismatists of all times regarding what to look for if you are a prospective purchaser of commemorative coins. His observations are invaluable for not only the novice but the more experienced hobbyist, and we are in Dave's debt for his extraordinarily generous offer to have *The Commemorative Trail* publish this commentary before it is published in *The Rare Coin Review*, the award-winning publication of Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SOCIETY MEETINGS



The Society's Annual Meeting will be held at the American Numismatic Association's 103rd Anniversary Convention (The 1994 AmericANA Coin Show: A World's Fair of Money) in Detroit, Michigan, on Saturday, July 30th, at 9 a.m., Oakland Hall. Please check the convention program for any change in location.

Frank W. DuVall (LM-001, AL) will be a featured speaker at the Blue Ridge Numismatic Association's 34th Annual Convention, August 19-22, 1994, at the Northwest Georgia Trade Center in Dalton, GA. He will be presenting a program, "What Happened to the Five Million Columbian Half Dollars?" on Saturday, and all Society members are welcome.

* * *

Keeping the Lines of Communication Open

by Les D. Watson (R-1550, CA)

Again, let me apologize for any delay in responding to your communications regarding borrowing our Society's videotapes. My professional and personal responsibilities seem to be growing daily, but, since I wish to serve the Society, I am making every effort to fulfill my commitment as communications chairperson.

Our current library consists of the following titles (VHS format only):

"Overview of the 1893 Columbian Exposition" with Albert K. Hall

"Ezra Meeker and the Oregon Trail" with Bob Van Ryzin

"Minting Characteristics of the California Commemoratives" with Ray Mercer

"The Larry Shepherd Collection of U.S. Silver Commemorative Coins"
with Larry Shepherd, narrated by John Austin

"Commemorative Coin Highlights" with Larry Shepherd

"Future U.S. Coinage: A View from the Top" with Congressman Esteban E. Torres

These tapes have been generously provided by SUSCC member David Lisot. Instructions for borrowing these videos have been previously published in this column. For the price of postage both ways and a mailer (usually less than $6 total), you can borrow up to two tapes at a time. Just write to

Les D. Watson
18627 Brookhurst Street, #396
Fountain Valley, CA 92708-6700

and be patient. I will respond to your requests as quickly as possible.

Copies of the Society photograph (suitable for framing) are also available. Please make your check payable to SUSCC in the amount of only $25 (first-class postage and handling included), and send it with your name and address. This impressive photo will be sent to you by return mail.

Your requests for copies of back issues of *The Commemorative Trail* are accumulating. As previously noted, I am trying to wait until I have at least 25 requests for a particular issue before making and distributing them. I am not able to respond individually at this time but am using this forum to answer you collectively. Some members have offered to pay extra if we never achieve our goal of 25 requests. That will be taken into account, and THANK YOU! Others have sent postage and asked for cost estimates. I still have your postage and will respond to you when the cost estimates are available. In the meantime, please excuse this "generic" form of response in this column.

Keep those requests coming!

* * *

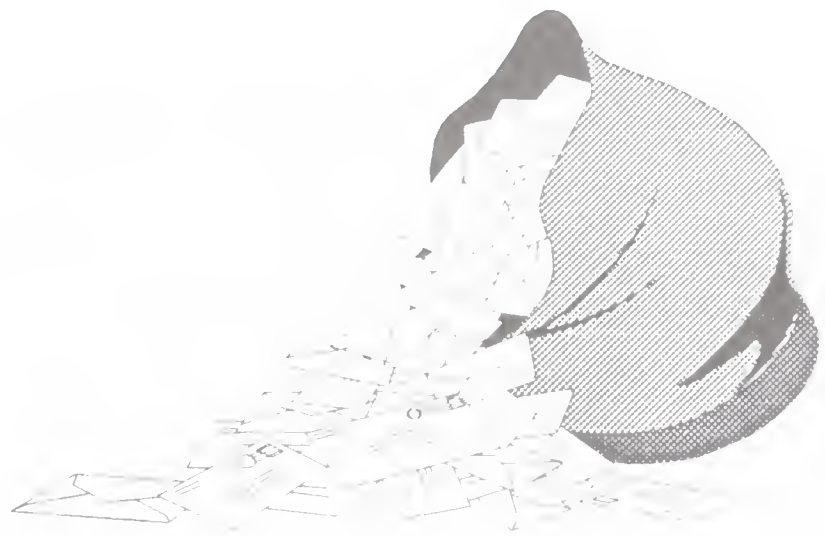
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We are always pleased to hear from our members. Of great interest is the following letter from **James J. Dooley (R-1809, CA)**, a regular contributor to our journal:

Dear Helen:

I would like to thank Frank DuVall for describing the duties of each of the Society's offices in the Winter 1993 edition of *The Commemorative Trail*. Based on his descriptions, I have decided to volunteer my services as vice president of the Society for the coming year.

Until now, I have been content to make editorial contributions to *The Trail* and occasional small gifts to the Society the extent of my participation. Now, I have decided that these easy types of participation are not enough—that I must be willing to take a more active role in the Society's work. I want to encourage other members who would like to expand their role in the Society to consider volunteering for an office in 1994.



Those who have worked so hard over the last ten years to bring the Society to its present level of excellence deserve to know that we are ready and willing to lift the burden from their shoulders. Even more important, perhaps, is the opportunity before us to encourage, to nurture, and to serve future generations of lifelong commemorative coin enthusiasts.

If chosen the Society's next vice president, I pledge my best efforts toward increasing member involvement by stressing the many benefits of active participation in the Society's work.

(Editor's Reply: *Jim, yours is a most generous offer; and on behalf of the other officers and myself, let me thank you for your willingness to assume the vice presidency this coming August. It is extremely gratifying not only that you so kindly recognize our officers' past contributions but that you have come forward to help the Society to continue to serve its members. You may be interested to know others have also volunteered their services. At this writing, the office of president is "unclaimed." You, of course, are a "lock" for vice president. Jane Benson will continue as secretary. Frank DuVall will continue as treasurer. Chris Shappell has stepped forward to serve as YN representative, and all remaining officers will continue in their respective posts: Anthony Swiatek-historian, librarian and program chairman; Les Watson-communications chairperson; Jerry Yahalom & Danny C. Hoffman-publicity chairpersons, Frank DuVall and I-ANA club reps; and I will continue as journal editor.* ***Do we have a president waiting in the wings? Please advise at your earliest possible convenience!***)

In my mailbox was the following letter from **Steven J. Devlin (R-2001, MI)**. I read it with great pleasure, and I thought I should share it with all members so you too may benefit from some of Steve's ideas:

Dear Helen:

Please find enclosed an article I've written that you could perhaps use in a future edition of *The Commemorative Trail*. I'm not the best writer, so you may find plenty of mistakes and many awkward phrases. In fact, the topic may not be of real interest. If not, no offense taken on my end; I'm just trying to answer your request for articles.

In doing this article, I have come across many ideas for future articles. If time permits me, I will begin writing more articles for *The Trail*. I'm thinking along the lines of doing various sketches of the people depicted on the coins—their life and times. I think some members might be interested in reading

about the lives of people such as Admiral Coligny, William the Silent, Daniel Boone, Virginia Dare, Stonewall Jackson, Chief Black Hawk, and the Huguenots and places like Roanoke and York Colonies. The list goes on and on. In fact, in one sitting I counted over 200 different subjects that could be of interest.

Unfortunately, I live in a small town which has a small library. I will try and see if I can get access to the libraries at the local University of Michigan, or the Ann Arbor city library. The other problem I have is limited time. I work a normal 40-hour job, as everyone else does, and during the spring-summer-fall months I'm busy working on the side as a house painter. Fortunately, I like to read before I retire each night, so I can squeeze in time there. So basically what I'm saying here is that I will try and write lots more articles for *The Trail*, and, hopefully, another one will be forthcoming soon, but please don't hold me to it. If I had a wealth of information in my head or at my fingertips, and had the gift of writing as Dave Bowers does, I certainly would be producing articles right and left for you.

I've also been wanting to write in for some time now with a suggestion for an article. I am like many other collectors in the Society who cannot afford to attend all the big shows where the Society has its Saturday morning meetings. When you have a guest speaker, perhaps someone can turn on a tape recorder and record the lecture. Then perhaps this could be transcribed into an article. I know I have often read in *The Trail* or the newspapers about a guest speaker's giving an interesting talk, but we don't get the particulars of that lecture. I think many readers would like to read the lecture verbatim. Perhaps the guest speaker has read from a copy, and the copy could be turned over to *The Trail* for publication? I suppose I could volunteer to transcribe a tape to paper. (However, I have a slight hearing loss, and don't always do too well if there aren't lips to read, but I could get help from family members when needed. Another thought would be to tape these lectures using a video camera.)

Anyway, I enjoyed writing the article, and I hope to write more in the near future. When I attended college, one of my favorite studies was history, and I enjoyed doing the research required to write term papers for those classes. I can see that writing articles for *The Trail* would be just like taking history class all over again.

Finally, as you can see, I live in southeastern Michigan, only 45 minutes from downtown Detroit. I will be attending the ANA convention and will be sure to look for you and Don at the show. This will be the second ANA show for me. I look forward to the day when I can travel all over the country to attend the ANA shows. The last ANA convention I went to was the 1991 Chicago show, where I briefly met you and Don, and the two of you signed me up for membership in the Society.

Take care, and, hopefully, I'll see you in Detroit.

(Editor's Reply: *I truly appreciated your efforts to submit your article on a diskette; it really makes a big difference in the amount of time I have to spend in compiling our journal. I also wanted to call your attention to the listing of videotapes that are available from the Society's library. We initially did tape-record "special" programs—one of which was presented by former Chief Engraver/Sculptor Elizabeth Jones during a Long Beach Expo meeting. However, certain problems arose when speakers used visual aids, and there was a lot of information lost to the listener without the accompanying slides, etc. Then David Lisot began videotaping our programs, and a good many of them have been edited and packaged for members' use. David has a number of lectures still to be finalized, and, hopefully, in the near future, he will supply the Society with those tapes. Les Watson, our communications chairperson, will keep you advised of their availability through his column in our journal. I do hope that many*

members, upon reading your ideas for articles, come up with subjects they too would enjoy researching. Both Don and I look forward to seeing you in Detroit.)

and now a very thoughtful letter from **J. Andrew Todd (R-0552, CA):**

Dear Helen:

I would like to acknowledge Superior Galleries and their staff for consistently striving to assemble the most desirable commemoratives for their auctions. Starting with the Shaffer Collection back in 1988, the Shepherd Collection in 1991, and now the Rothenberger Collection this year, they have offered for sale the ultimate examples of every commemorative type. As a long-time collector of commemorative coins, I appreciate the opportunity to bid on such coins. Just to see them is a privilege! Their catalog photography is "superior," and their customer service is outstanding. It is nice to have an auction firm that is so user-friendly to those of us in the Society.

(Editor's Reply: *Andrew, I know Superior Galleries (**Lawrence S. Goldberg R-1178, CA**) and staff members are in your debt for putting into writing something Society members have long known. We have benefited greatly from their offerings of free catalogs of such memorable auctions and for their continued support of the hobby and, particularly, the Society. It is also interesting to note that you mentioned the sales of three collections formed by our members! We have every reason to be proud of the caliber of numismatists the Society attracts—from those who assemble the finest known collections to those whose budgets may not meet that level but, nevertheless, make indelible contributions in sharing their knowledge and expertise with others. Unfortunately, our publication deadline was too late to notify members of your tip to them that the Shepherd Collection's Vermont specimen would be included in Superior's May sale, but odds are that spectacular coin may already be resting in the collection of another proud Society member. Thanks very much for writing!*)

* * *

To illustrate how wonderfully the major coin firms have treated Society members, it also seems fitting to mention the discount we received on **Q. David Bowers' (R-0548, NH)** *Commemorative Coins of the United States: A Complete Encyclopedia* published by Bowers and Merena Galleries and the numerous articles and photos Dave regularly contributes to our journal. When I am "up against it" and realize I don't have enough articles to complete an issue, all I need do is to telephone Dave and make a request. He **never** says he is too busy to help our club!

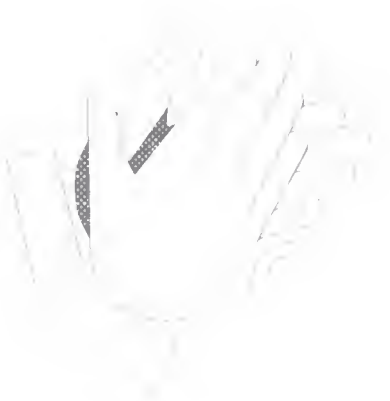
Furthermore, when **Gerald L. Bauman (R-0027, NY)** was with Manfra, Tordella & Brookes, he supplied countless copies of the firm's special commemorative booklet—all free of charge, postage included!

* * *

HERITAGE OFFERS SUSCC FREE ANA CATALOGS!

Now comes another offer that in itself will offset the cost of your *entire* Society dues this year. **Steve Ivy (R-1126, TX)**, Heritage Capital Corporation, has offered Society members a copy of The 1994 American Numismatic Association Convention catalog from Heritage Numismatic Auctions absolutely

free! For those of you who have been in "seclusion" for the past few months and haven't read *Coin World* or *Numismatic News* or ANA press releases, Heritage will be auctioning the Tyler Dillon of Welsley Collection of U.S. Commemorative Coins at the ANA's 103rd Anniversary Convention. The sale will take place in Detroit, Michigan, July 27-30, 1994, and contains some of the finest pieces certified to date! To receive **your** copy, call either Bob Merrill or Leo Frese at Heritage Numismatic Auctions [1-800-872-6467], giving your Society membership number (it is indicated on the mailing label of your journal envelope, and it also appears on your membership card). When the catalogs are ready for distribution, one will be mailed to you. A big **thank-you** to Steve, Jim Halperin, Bob, Leo, and all the Heritage staff!



* * *

Pictured are some "poster stamps" courtesy of Q. David Bowers. These are beautifully designed and colored, although the latter is lost in our black-and-white pages. However, we are presenting them so members can discover yet another tie-in collectible relating to our favorite series.

THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

by Helen L. Carmody (R-0007, CA)

It's Almost That Time of Year *Again*!

It hardly seems possible that another journal must go to the printer and the end of another club year is nearly upon us. At least I know I'm not the only member with too much work and too little time. Nearly all of our contributing authors also had numerous pressures placed upon them during the last quarter, and writing for *The Trail* was a **true** "labor" of love! We have wonderfully informative and entertaining articles for this issue—all of which evidence the hard work and devotion required to uphold the high standards of our Society, and many of which were submitted past our deadline but were more than gratefully accepted for inclusion anyway. I doubt whether any of you would be thrilled to receive *TCT* with only a cover and the columns for which I am responsible! My deepest gratitude to Dave Bowers, Steve Devlin, Jim Dooley, Harry Forman, Danny Hoffman, Anthony Swiatek, Michael S. Turrini and the others who came to my aid to assure this publication is the best we have to offer.

Please remember that our new club year will begin in conjunction with the 103rd Anniversary Convention of the American Numismatic Association at the end of July. Thus far we have at least one member volunteering to assume or continue in each office *except* the presidency. I feel it would be detrimental to our Society for me to continue in that position. Innovative ideas, fresh energy, and untapped enthusiasm are needed to push our club forward to the heights we all wish to achieve. I will, however, continue to edit the journal—if (and that's the key word!) articles and other features are forthcoming from the membership. Let's face it: It's just not fair for a few to do all the work for many. I implore you to take a more active role in the operation of our club. You know whether you fall into the latter category, so please share your knowledge and experience with your fellow members.

The fate of the Society for U.S. Commemorative Coins rests with *you*. Our current officers will continue to support our efforts to do all we can to promote the study and enjoyment of commemorative coins, but at this point in time we need others to come forward. Some already have, as evidenced elsewhere in this issue. However, it would be rather strange to have no one at the helm of our club. Vice President Swiatek and I, as ANA Board members, have obligations that preclude our presiding over meetings. Ideally, the new president should be someone who will be able to attend the FUN, CSNS, and ANA Early Spring and Anniversary conventions. [Jim Dooley, who has volunteered to become vice president, will be able to helm the Long Beach Expo meetings.] If you fit that description, please call me or write to me without delay. Being president of our Society will allow you to give back a great deal of the benefits you have derived from our hobby.

As soon as you opened the envelope containing this journal, I was already in need of submissions for our summer edition. Please do your part and submit an article for Club Year 1993-1994. Many thanks!

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Anthony Swiatek (R-0004, NY)

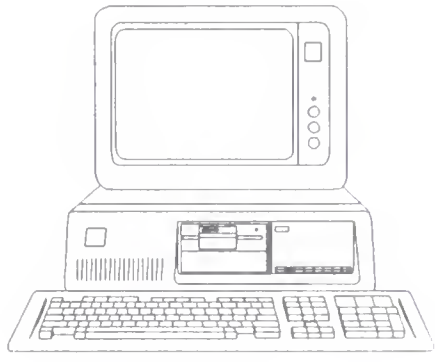
Greetings to all SUSCC members!

Kudos to all those actively involved individuals whose efforts have made our Society one of the most respected and successful in the numismatic world. Some of those who immediately come to mind are Jane Benson, Dave Bowers, Don Carmody, Helen Carmody, Frank DuVall, Bill Fivaz, Ray Mercer, Cindy Mohon, Gloria Peters, Mike Turrini, Les Watson, et al. Let's not forget YN Danny Hoffman.

Collectors and dealers keep telling me how cheap the MS-66 Texas (1935-1937) type coins are at $190 bid. WOW! Actually, in my opinion, they are fairly priced—even though they have come down from the 5/26/89 high of $1,450 bid!!! Today there are over 4,000 pieces slabbed between NGC and PCGS! Acquire for the pure joy of ownership in grades MS-60 through MS-66. Howbeit, were I to select a winner or best bet amongst the 1935-1937 type dates, it would be the 1937-P creation.

Until next time, may all that is good in this life always be with you.

* * *



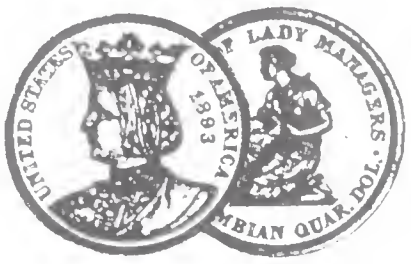
Please remember to submit your articles on disk if possible. As I work with an IBM-compatible computer and WordPerfect 5.1, perhaps you can use that program as well. If not, any other will be totally acceptable as long as I am able to read the disk.

But don't let these conditions stop you from writing an article. I am also more than willing to work from a hard copy, i.e., the printed page.

All you need are time, energy, and a desire to see your byline appear in our journal!

* * *

Now it gives me great pleasure to present the feature article of this issue. Reading any of Dave Bowers' writings is always a treat, and this one is no exception.



AN INSIDE VIEW
of
Collecting Commemoratives

Part I

by Q. David Bowers (R-0548, NH)

The following commentary is to appear serially in *The Rare Coin Review*, published by Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc. *The Commemorative Trail* has been given the opportunity to print it in advance. The author has been a rare coin dealer since 1953, and is a well known numismatic figure. His book, *Commemorative Coins of the United States: A Complete Encyclopedia*, was published in 1992.

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Introduction

One of the most popular branches of our business here at Bowers and Merena Galleries is the buying and selling of commemorative coins, particularly the silver issues and those of the so-called "classic" era from 1892 through 1954. More so than any other American series, the designs are very different from each other, and pay tribute to a wide range of subjects, from saints to scoundrels, from the important to the trivial. As such they have been fascinating to me for a long time.

Indeed, when I was a teen-ager in the 1950s, one of my first collections was a type set of commemorative half dollars, containing one each of the 48 design types minted from 1892 through 1954, in Uncirculated grade (no one used the term "Mint State" for silver coins back then). Had I wanted to, I could have ordered Carver-Washington half dollars from the issuing commission, but as I was interested in only types, not in rare varieties, I didn't do so.

Recently, Helen Carmody, president of the Society for U.S. Commemorative Coins, asked me to write an article for *The Commemorative Trail*.

On the same day I heard from Helen, I talked at length with a gentleman from Southern California who was beginning his interest in numismatics. He found the commemorative series to be fascinating, but didn't know where to begin. He had in his possession a wide array of price lists, market quotations, and investment advisory notices, but, apparently, the more he read, the more befuddled he became.

"Really, I want to be a collector of these," he said. "However, everything can't be a best buy, and I don't know how to reconcile 'bid' and 'ask' prices with 'Trends' prices, listings in the *Guide Book*, and other information. Help!"

With this in mind, I thought it would be a useful exercise to take the enumeration of commemoratives as given in *A Guide Book of United States Coins*, in order alphabetically, and give some observations that might benefit someone about to make a purchase. In addition to the 48 different designs of half dollars in the classic era, there are two other silver coins—the 1893 Isabella quarter and the 1900 Lafayette dollar—which I will discuss as well.

While much could be said about the history, romance, and background of each issue, the present article concentrates on what to look for if you are a prospective purchaser, together with things that I,

as a dealer on the inside track of the commemorative market for many years, have observed.

What Grades Should I Buy?

First, a few observations on grade vs. quality:

For my money, I would cherrypick a brilliant piece or one with light iridescent toning. Avoid coins with hairlines, with yellow blotches, or with unsightly toning. Particularly tricky are pieces with dark or deep toning which have been certified at high grades. If you ask me, I'd rather have a lustrous, bright MS-63 than a deeply toned certified MS-66 for the same price!

This brings to mind a caveat which will be useful throughout the present article. Among certified coins, quite a few pieces—actually, for some issues the *majority*—are deeply toned pieces which are not particularly attractive. I suggest that these be avoided. Some of these are in grades such as MS-65, MS-66, MS-67, or even higher. The truth is that with deep toning, no one knows what the grade *really* is. It could mean that one of those dandy "MS-67" coins, if dipped, would reveal a surface with rubbing, and might really be only AU. Save yourself all of this aggravation, and don't bother with such pieces.

Further, the market price on what David Hall calls "ga-ga" grades is anything but certain. In general, most of the demand for commemoratives above MS-65 comes from investors, not from collectors, and as a class investors are a fickle lot.

While I am at it, let me mention population reports. If a particular commemorative is listed in the population report as being just 1 of 3 certified as MS-67, for example, and priced accordingly, there is a very good chance that next year or the year after, there will be 4 or 5 certified at this level, and perhaps 10 years from now, a dozen or more. In other words, numbers in population reports *never become lower,* and *nearly always become higher*. If you are a knowledgeable numismatist familiar with the market, you probably know this. However, a popular aspect of investment sales is to trade on low-population reports which, in my opinion, can be very dangerous. In the *Rare Coin Review* 98, issued by our firm, I dwelt upon this at length, quoting Bruce Amspacher on the subject. Misinterpreted, population reports can be very dangerous to your financial health!

If you want to check to see if a coin has hairlines, turn it carefully at an angle to the light (an incandescent bulb two or three feet away is excellent, I have found). If hairlines are present, they will show up. Of course, the reason why some commemoratives are graded, for example, MS-63 instead of MS-65, is that they do have some hairlines. (I credit Bill Fivaz with publicizing this technique, which he has demonstrated numerous times at seminars he has given.)

On the other side of the ledger, now in 1994, the commemorative market is, in some areas, priced much lower than it was just a few years ago. If a given commemorative coin in a given grade was worth buying for, say $1,000, five years ago, shouldn't it be twice as desirable today for the current market price of just $500? I think so. I believe the commemorative market today offers some really fantastic opportunities for the careful buyer.

The above said, let's progress in a cheery, enthusiastic manner through the commemorative series!

1893 ISABELLA QUARTER DOLLAR

As these were sold for $1 at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893—the same price as charged for the larger Columbian half dollars—sales were slow, and eventually just 24,214 were distributed, many of them in quantity after the exposition closed.

When encountered, the typical Isabella quarter is apt to be in Mint State. I don't ever recall seeing a well-worn one. Most pieces are well struck and very lustrous. Select a brilliant, frosty coin. Avoid deeply toned pieces.

This will be an easy coin to find.

1921 ALABAMA CENTENNIAL HALF DOLLAR

This issue comes in two varieties, with and without 2x2 in the obverse field. Both varieties were rather casually struck and carelessly handled at the Mint, and during distribution. In addition, quite a few were sold to the public (and were carelessly handled afterward).

Today, examples are often seen in grades from EF through MS-60, usually with signs of cleaning.

I consider MS-63 and MS-64 coins to be good values in today's market, but only if they have lustrous fields and are attractive to the eye ("aesthetic appeal" it is called). These are in the distinct minority, and it may be that you will have to look through 10 or 20 before finding *one* that you like. I am not discussing sharpness of strike here, just general appearance.

With regard to sharpness, virtually all are lightly struck at the center of the obverse and reverse; this comes with the territory. What you want is a lustrous, frosty piece with brilliant fields or light toning, with nice aesthetic appeal.

Certification doesn't mean a great deal, as I have seen "MS-65" coins that are not as nice as "MS-63" or "MS-64" coins. Think for yourself. The Alabama half dollar of either type will be one of the toughies in your set—one of the most difficult to obtain in truly choice condition.

1936 ALBANY CHARTER HALF DOLLAR

In contrast to the Alabama, the 1936 Albany, New York Charter half dollar is nearly always found in Mint State, and often with nice surfaces. Cherrypicking is advised, as it is for nearly all issues.

In general, if the flank of the beaver appears frosty and without hairlines, the rest of the coin will be nice too (but you will want to examine the rest of the coin just to be sure). Of course, if you are buying a coin in the MS-60 to MS-63 range, expect some lines on this part of the beaver's anatomy.

Buying a nice one of these will present no difficulty.

1937 ANTIETAM HALF DOLLAR

This issue was sold nearly entirely to collectors, with the result that most known specimens are in Mint State. The design of the coin is such that the surfaces are somewhat irregular, concealing minor lines and marks. Accordingly, the typical Antietam half dollar is apt to be in higher grades such as MS-63, MS-64, and MS-65, and quite nice in appearance.

Numerous pieces have light hairlines, which can be detected by the "Bill Fivaz method" discussed above. Typically, these consist of lines all running in the same direction, as if someone took the coin and wiped it with a silver-polishing cloth. Perhaps this was done to some of them before they were sold to the original buyers, or perhaps there is some explanation. Anyway, hairlines seem to be more prevalent on this issue than any other of its era.

1935-1939 ARKANSAS CENTENNIAL HALF DOLLARS

These half dollars will be the nemesis of anyone who wants really top quality, simply because they weren't made that way. The typical Arkansas half dollar, particularly of the earlier years, is apt to have a fair amount of marks on the obverse and to be of generally dull appearance.

Toward the end of their production, particularly with the low-mintage 1939 issue, the situation improved somewhat. One leading rare coin dealer made a public statement to the fact that he has never seen even a single Arkansas half dollar of any kind which he would call MS-65. This judgment might be a bit harsh, as grading standards are often adjusted to meet what might be available and what is practical, and today numerous MS-65 coins have been certified. However, it certainly is fair to say that *aesthetically pleasing* MS-65 coins are quite rare, but with some searching they are available. For my money, I would just as soon buy a low-mintage 1938 or 1939 Arkansas half dollar from one of the three mints, coins which are rarities and which usually come in nicer condition than the earlier years. All

things considered, I think it is more enjoyable to own a low-mintage coin than a high-mintage one.

1936-S BAY BRIDGE HALF DOLLAR

This issue occurs with a satiny, matte-like design which serves to protect the surface. The result is that most known coins are in middle to high degrees of Mint State. Contact marks, when seen, are apt to be on the fore part of the bear on the obverse.

The reverse design is so complex that a coin could probably be put through a rock tumbler for a half hour and still look "Choice Uncirculated!"

This particular issue, made in large numbers, will be a snap to acquire. Pick a lustrous and bright one, or a lightly toned example, and that's it—not a great deal of cherrypicking effort needed.

1934-1938 BOONE BICENTENNIAL HALF DOLLARS

The Boone series from 1934 through 1938 changes its appearance somewhat, so far as surfaces are concerned, from the beginning to the end. In general, those of the earlier years such as 1934 and 1935 are apt to be much more frosty than those of 1937 and 1938, which have a satiny appearance. Some examples of 1937 are prooflike.

There are enough Boone half dollars around that getting one for a type set will present no problem at all. Look for contact marks on the cheek, neck, and collar of Daniel Boone; and if that part is clear, then chances are good that the rest of the coin will be satisfactory as well. Once again, choose a piece with eye appeal.

Toward the end of the series the mintages get paltry, and it might be enjoyable to pick something like a 1938, 1938-D, or 1938-S even if you want just one to illustrate the design type. These aren't exactly inexpensive, but considering their rarity, they are bargains.

Two of the most famous coins in the commemorative series are the 1935-D and 1935-S with small "1934" on the reverse, with just 2,000 of each distributed—the lowest mintage in the entire series. Whenever I sell one of these, I cannot help but think that they are hundreds of times rarer than modern commemorative issues. Low mintage figures have always been attractive, and it's a mystery to me why some of the Boone half dollars are so *cheap*. In time, this probably will change.

1936 BRIDGEPORT HALF DOLLAR

This issue is normally seen in Mint State, with MS-62 or MS-63 being about typical. Look for contact marks on the cheek of P.T. Barnum on the obverse and, especially, on the broad right wing of the eagle on the reverse. Finding a nice MS-63, MS-64, or MS-65 coin will not be difficult.

1925-S CALIFORNIA DIAMOND JUBILEE HALF DOLLAR

A few Mint State pieces came out on the market a few years ago from a source that had been kept intact since 1925, and we were fortunate enough to buy a few. As far as I know, most if not all of these are dispersed by now.

In general, this is a tough issue, one that is hard to find choice. Virtually all show contact marks on the flank of the grizzly bear on the reverse. Surfaces vary from frosty to somewhat prooflike. Cherrypicking will definitely be required to find a nice one. Choice MS-63, MS-64, and MS-65 pieces represent obtainable goals, depending on your budget; but, as noted, some effort will be needed.

In cases such as this in which cherrypicking is advised, it is especially important to ignore published "bid" and "ask" prices, for, in general, these are trading prices for the worst possible condition—the dregs which neither you nor I would really want to own. In my opinion, a really choice piece of a tough issue such as the 1925-S California would be a better buy at double the "bid" price than an ugly coin in the same technical grade at half the "bid" price. In fact, I don't think I would want to own an ugly coin for any amount of money.

1951-1954 CARVER-WASHINGTON HALF DOLLARS

The Carver-Washington half dollars minted from 1951 through 1954 are somewhat of a numismatic enigma. They were struck in fairly shallow relief, and once minted, were handled carelessly. As a result, most show contact marks, particularly at the center of the obverse, but also typically at the center of the reverse. Finding a brilliant, lustrous piece that is truly choice will be difficult to do.

Almost without exception, those certified in higher grades (above MS-65) are toned in such a manner that one cannot tell what the grade *really* is, and any friction is cleverly masked by the toning! That said, and with due respect paid to the fact that grading services are a bit lenient when it comes to half dollars of this type, you can proceed to acquire one or more for your collection. However, don't expect a certified MS-65 Carver-Washington to be of the same quality as a certified MS-65 Boone half dollar. If there is such a term as *flexible grading standards,* it applies here (and a few other commemorative series as well, I might add).

The Carver-Washington half dollars were not particularly popular at the time of their issue, and a number of pieces are much scarcer today than the mintages indicate. Where they all went, I don't know. However, I do know that sets of various issues in desirable grades such as MS-63, MS-64, and MS-65 are absurdly cheap. If I had all the money in the world and a great deal of patience, I would enjoy trying to put together, say, one thousand complete collections of Carver-Washington half dollars. However, I doubt if a lifetime of 100 years would be long enough to accomplish the task.

1936 CINCINNATI HALF DOLLARS

Produced at three mints in limited quantities, the Cincinnati, "A Musical Center of America," issues were sold entirely to collectors—none to the public—with the result that most are preserved in collector's hands today. Handling at the mints was careless, with the result that nearly all show contact marks on the cheek of Stephen Foster.

Some selectivity is suggested when acquiring this issue, but it's not like the 1921 Alabama where you may have to look through a couple dozen pieces in order to find one that is just right. Chances are good that if you are seeking an MS-63, you'll find one fairly quickly. MS-64 coins are tougher, and MS-65s without many marks are even harder yet. Once again, buy brilliant, lustrous coins. Quite a few of these are toned in unattractive yellow hues.

1936 CLEVELAND HALF DOLLAR

Minted in large quantities, this issue is plentiful today, and will be a snap to acquire—no difficulty. Just pick one that you like.

1936 COLUMBIA HALF DOLLARS

Produced at three mints, this issue is readily available today. Most are of decent quality, showing friction, when seen, on the breasts of the lady standing on the obverse, and, less obviously on the palmetto leaves on the reverse.

Finding one coin, two, or a complete set of three will be fairly easy.

1892-1893 COLUMBIAN HALF DOLLARS

These are the most plentiful of the early commemorative half dollars, and because of their sheer quantity, buying a Mint State coin will not be difficult. However, finding one that is attractive, not cleaned, and with a combination of brilliant lustre and pleasing light toning is not easy.

Let me give you an example: A few months ago, a leading dealer acquired 600 certified Columbian half dollars, all Mint State, and a nice mixture of the 1892-1893 dates. I told him I might be interested in buying the entire lot. Knowing that I am a bit picky when it comes to quality, he told me that there were only *five* coins that would meet "my" qualifications. I was a bit skeptical, and asked

to see some of the rejects, and was shown a bunch of coins that for the most part, were darkly toned, were spotted, or had other problems. The previous owner was a bottom-feeder, sought to stretch his purchase dollars, and the quality showed it. Ugly! Ugly! Ugly!

Although I am a dealer, and I cannot say this in an unbiased manner as I earn my living selling coins, I believe that few will quarrel with this statement: No one ever put together a choice collection of coins in any series by buying "bargains." Quality costs. But, quality is worth it. And, quality does not necessarily mean high technical grade. A hand-picked set of MS-63 commemoratives can be more desirable aesthetically than a non-selected set of MS-65 coins.

Back to the subject of Columbian half dollars, you may have to do a bit of looking to find one that is just right, but the total population is sufficiently large that sooner or later you'll find just what you need. The first commemorative coin I ever owned—my grandfather, Chester A. Garratt, gave it to me when I was a kid—was a well-worn 1893 Columbian half dollar, which, unfortunately (in retrospect), I traded. I suppose today it would be worth more to me than the finest Mint State 65!

1935 CONNECTICUT TERCENTENARY HALF DOLLAR

This issue falls in the twilight zone; it is neither common nor rare in choice condition. Most known specimens are in Mint State, but most have contact marks on the eagle's wing. Finding a nice MS-63, MS-64, or MS-65 will take some doing, with perhaps 1 coin in 3 or 4 suiting the "fussy" buyer. Still, there are enough around that it will not pose a problem.

1936 DELAWARE TERCENTENARY HALF DOLLAR

This issue is normally seen in high grades, and there are more MS-64 and MS-65 coins around than there are pieces graded MS-60 or less. Contact marks, when seen, are apt to be on the roof of the church and, especially, on the sails of the ship on the reverse. This piece has always been one of my favorites, as it bears the date 1936, was minted in 1937, and observes an anniversary held in 1938. Actually, it is not unique in this respect, for the 1936-dated Battle of Gettysburg half dollar had exactly the same situation.

Among the basic 48 different commemorative silver half-dollar designs of the classic period, the 1936 Delaware will be one of the easiest to find. Look through 4 or 5, and the chances are that 2 or 3 will be satisfactory, including among certified coins.

1936 ELGIN CENTENNIAL HALF DOLLAR

This half dollar is notable for its remarkable surface, a matte-like satin finish, not at all like the frosty lustre seen on most pieces. This is due to the finish of the dies, which must have been "pickled" or sandblasted.

Interestingly, the Pioneer Memorial statue, which this half dollar was issued to finance, still hasn't been built! When I wrote my book *Commemorative Coins of the United States: A Complete Encyclopedia*, I had a nice visit and several nice communications with Gloria Rovelstad, widow of the designer of the coin. I have always wanted to do a special promotion or special offer on Elgin half dollars, and have instructed Mark Borckardt and Ray Merena to join me in buying all the nice ones we can find. My thought is that if we can accumulate 200 or 300 of them, we could put out a little brochure or otherwise emphasize their romantic nature, something which is not necessarily economically feasible to do when we just have a few. However, every time we buy 10 coins, we seem to sell 9, so as of this writing, our stock isn't very impressive!

If you have a friend who is interested in learning about commemoratives, a good way for him or her to get started would be to buy a 1936 Elgin half dollar, readily available in today's market, and to give him or her a bunch of literature to read about it—you have my permission to Xerox the pages

from my *Encyclopedia* if you wish to. Chances are that this will spark an interest that will lead to a desire to acquire the rest of the series.

When seen, a 1936 Elgin Centennial half dollar is apt to be in Mint State, with MS-63 and MS-64 being typical grades. MS-65s are a bit scarcer. I have seen some MS-66 and MS-67 coins which, to my eye, don't seem to be particularly different from others graded as MS-65, but there are exceptions. In any event, if I were recommending to a family member as to what grade to buy, I would opt for MS-63 and MS-64, or even MS-65, as I think they are good values. Some slight cherrypicking will be needed to find a nice piece, but probably two out of three are decent.

1936 GETTYSBURG HALF DOLLAR

This issue is closely related to the 1936 Delaware inasmuch as it bears the date 1936, and was minted in 1937 for an anniversary occurring in 1938. Nearly all were sold to collectors, with the results that most survive in Mint State today.

When friction is seen, it shows up first on the high parts of the shields on the reverse. Typical grade for a Gettysburg half dollar is MS-62 or MS-63. MS-64 coins are scarcer, and a really nice MS-65 is a bit on the rare side (relatively speaking). Cherrypicking is definitely advised, with the first step being to take a coin and turn it carefully in the light, observing the higher areas of the shields on the reverse, to see what you can find.

1922 GRANT HALF DOLLARS

This issue exists with and without obverse star, the former being much scarcer and, in my opinion, one of the most interesting and undervalued of all varieties.

Although 4,256 of the With-Star variety were distributed, enough have become lost, strayed, or stolen that pieces are even harder to find than the low mintage would suggest. Added to that is the fact that most of them are in rather "scruffy" grades from AU-58 to MS-62, and are not particularly attractive. If you are going to buy a Grant With Star, some intense cherrypicking is needed. I like the grades MS-63 and MS-64. I have no quarrel with an MS-65, but just be sure that it is nicer than a typical MS-64, or else you are wasting a good deal of money.

Certification is quite erratic for both the rare With-Star and the common Without-Star issues, and if you don't believe me, just go to a convention, gather together a dozen 1922 Grant half dollars (the No-Star variety will suffice for the illustration), put a piece of tape or a sticker over the certification number, and pass them around to dealer or collector friends and ask them to guess the grades. It's dollars to donuts that they won't come close.

The No-Star variety was made in larger quantities, but like the With-Star issue, is typically seen rather "scruffy." This lack of appeal is due to two reasons, neither one of which you can do much about. First, the surface of the dies, particularly the obverse, were finished roughly, with an emery cloth or a file, with the result that the dies had many recessed lines in them, which on the finished coin are in the form of tiny *raised* ridges, visible under high powered magnification. The usual 1922 Grant half dollar looks as if it had been cleaned with sand! However, the culprit is the die itself.

Further, striking is nearly always indistinct on the high parts of the coin, particularly on President Grant's head. As if this were not enough to give you a headache, most pieces are dull, spotted, or unattractively toned.

With all of this in mind, you will find that cherrypicking a 1922 Grant half dollar of either variety will be a major task. If you have to pay considerably over market price to get a choice one, go for it. I know we pay over market when we buy them for stock, are always happy to get them, and have never had very many on hand at one time.

One thing to beware of is phony stars added to 1922 "plain" half dollars; the certification services guarantee the authenticity of their products, so far as I know, and this is a good safeguard.

It is also worth noting that the Grant half dollar is the only design which was also used on a commemorative coin of another denomination, the 1922 Grant gold dollar.

1928 HAWAIIAN SESQUICENTENNIAL HALF DOLLAR

From the standpoint of design types, the 1928 Hawaiian is the toughest of all commemorative coins. Just 10,008 were minted, the odd 8 being reserved for the Assay Commission, leaving a distribution of 10,000. Many, if not most, of these were sold to residents of the Hawaiian Islands, with relatively few going into the hands of collectors. Accordingly, over the years many became lost, strayed, or have otherwise disappeared. Today, examples are very difficult to acquire in grades MS-63 and above.

The typical coin has a somewhat satiny surface (not fully frosty), as made, sometimes with an element of "brightness" or mirrorlike sheen, particularly on the reverse. Contact marks abound and are first seen on the high spots of the obverse. For some reason, quite a few pieces have yellow toning or spotting, not particularly attractive.

Most pieces grade from AU-55 to MS-61 or MS-62, and often show signs of polishing or cleaning. A good goal to strive for is MS-63 or MS-64, cherrypicked for quality, with brilliant surfaces or with attractive light toning. Stay away from deeply toned or spotted pieces, of which there are many.

True MS-65s are quite rare, but the catch is to be sure that you don't pay an MS-65 price for a coin which is not particularly better than MS-64. Certified grades are apt to vary widely. Be very selective, and you'll be happy. I would not be surprised if you had to view 10 pieces to find 1 that is just right. Accordingly, you probably will have to pay a premium for quality; but as is nearly always the case for scarcer issues in numismatics, it will be worth it.

No account of the Hawaiian Sesquicentennial half dollar would be complete without mentioning on January 23, 1986, our firm had the honor and privilege of auctioning a hoard of 137 pieces consigned to us by the Bank of Hawaii, the original distributor. A long-ago theft and an unknown culprit caused this. To explain: In 1928, the president of the bank sought to offer employees a chance to buy coins for less than the $2 price charged to the public. He put a coin out on display and took orders. However, someone swiped the sample coin, causing the bargain offer to be canceled. The remaining 137 coins were put in the bank's vault, not to surface until decades later!

The 1928 Hawaiian half dollar is one of the "big three" among design types, with the other two being the 1935 Hudson and the 1935 Old Spanish Trail. Of the three, the Hawaiian is, by far, the most difficult to obtain in grades of MS-63 or finer, and is also the hardest to find with aesthetic appeal.

1935 HUDSON SESQUICENTENNIAL

With a distribution of just 10,000 pieces, the 1935 Hudson joins the 1928 Hawaiian and 1935 Old Spanish Trail as one of the harder-to-find issues among major design types. The design of the Hudson pieces was such that most show contact marks at the higher part of the coin, including the center of the ship on one side and the head and shoulders of the allegorical figure of Neptune on the other. The typically encountered coin is apt to be MS-62 or MS-63, somewhat lustrous except at the center.

This coin has a very interesting history, inasmuch as after the powers that be in the New York State town of Hudson committed themselves to buy 10,000 commemorative half dollars from the Treasury Department, they felt uneasy; and when a coin dealer came and offered to buy virtually the entire quantity, they gratefully accepted! The result is what you might expect: By the time that the original issue date came around, the distributor had very few on hand! The coin dealer, meanwhile, went screaming as he controlled the market and could do whatever he pleased. The price of the Hudson jumped immediately. From this somewhat shaky beginning, the issue became widely distributed, and today examples are scarce.

If you elect to buy MS-64 or MS-65 coins, choose wisely, as certification sometimes does not

mean a great deal, and I have seen MS-65 pieces with no finer quality than MS-64 or MS-63 examples. Cherrypicking is definitely advised!

1924 HUGUENOT-WALLOON TERCENTENARY HALF DOLLAR

If you had asked me about this coin 20 or 30 years ago, I would have given the offhand comment that Choice Uncirculated (as noted, the term "Mint State" was not used for half dollars back then) pieces were easy to obtain. In fact, I believe I put this in print somewhere in a *Coin World* column. Anthony Swiatek, commemorative specialist, called me on this; and at first I disputed him, then checked into the matter, and today as the present words are being written, agree with him that this issue is tougher than I had realized earlier.

Although 142,080 were distributed of this variety, many were simply put into circulation at face value, and others were handled carelessly by the public. Today, the vast majority of the pieces either are dull, have unsatisfactory toning, or are in lower grades. Finding a brilliant, lustrous piece (light toning is certainly acceptable) is a great challenge. Probably not 1 in 10 coins would meet the requirement of a connoisseur. Particularly dangerous, in my opinion, are pieces toned brown, brownish yellow, or yellow, and certified at grades such as MS-64 and MS-65. In truth, such coins could well have friction or wear on them, but this is masked by the toning. My recommendation is that you stay clear of such things.

The 1924 Huguenot-Walloon Tercentenary half dollar will require quite a bit of searching to find a nice one. Don't be shy about paying a premium above market price if quality is in the offing.

1918 ILLINOIS CENTENNIAL HALF DOLLAR

The 1918 Illinois half dollar was fairly widely distributed, although a few scattered hoards hung around the market for a time. Today, most pieces seen have a generous quantity of bagmarks on the obverse; but the reverse, with its very attractive and ornate design, serves to protect the field against such abuse, and is usually nicer. It is not at all unusual for the obverse to be graded, say, MS-60 and the reverse to be graded MS-63. However, certified coins are graded by the obverse only, thus giving you a "bonus" in reverse condition!

In addition to watching out for bagmarks (which certainly are to be expected in the lower grades, by the way), check for friction on the Lincoln portrait. Seek a lustrous, quality piece. This will require some looking, as several may have to be inspected before one is just right.

The reverse of the Illinois Centennial half dollar has my vote for the finest work that engraver John R. Sinnock ever did on a legal tender coin. It has a classic aspect, somewhat reminiscent of the illustrious era of silver patterns of the late 1870s, although not copying any earlier motif. If you study the reverse of this coin, you will find the motto STATE SOVEREIGNTY NATIONAL UNION, which might be good for a quiz at a coin club, asking, for example, what United States legal tender coin has the word SOVEREIGNTY on it?

In Conclusion

Thus ends Part I of my study of the "classic era" of silver commemorative coinage, which began in 1892 and ended in 1954. The next issue of *The Commemorative Trail* will conclude this commentary of the 48 different half-dollar design types plus the 1893 Isabella quarter dollar and the 1900 Lafayette dollar, a total of 144 coins if date and mintmark and other varieties are included.

* * *

We now turn our attention to Iowa and Part Fourteen of a continuing series of articles on the Iowa half dollar written by Society member Michael S. Turrini. The Society is indeed honored to have among the pages of this issue such scholarly and dedicated research and wishes to extend its appreciation to the California State Numismatic Association, which is now publishing this series, for permitting us to do so. For information regarding CSNA, please write to its corresponding secretary, Awanda Ayers, 3945 Bradford, #75, La Verne, CA 91750.

1946 IOWA STATEHOOD CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE HALF DOLLAR: Part Fourteen

Collectors, Too, Buy the Coin: Amazing Even Surprising

by Michael S. Turrini (LM-031, CA)

Dedication: This fourteenth article in this Iowa Half Dollar series is dedicated to Carl Fritze, dba C & C Stamps, a fellow philatelist and close and sincere friend to this author. Mr. Fritze is the supplier of all those 'old stamps' that the author uses on his mailings, including 'Iowa correspondence.'

With this article, time has arrived to conclude the mini-series "Collectors, Too, Buy The Coin." Notwithstanding much more could be penned on the "Iowa Plan" of distribution and sales, these seven articles clearly and concisely validated how labored and involved were the distribution and sales of the 1946 Iowa Statehood Centennial commemorative half dollar.[1]

The motive for this final article, finishing the mini-series, is to supplement the prior six articles with additional facts and anecdotes gleaned about the distribution and sales from both Ralph Evans' profuse files, so faithfully kept, and the still-held records of the Iowa State Treasurer.[2]

The Iowa Centennial Committee was rightly proud and thrilled with the sales success and profit earned. Its own *Report of Activities*, so often alluded to in this whole series, labeled the "coin sale" as "an amazing, even a surprising, demonstration of state pride,"[3] and further, "orders came from every state in the Union"[4] plus Canada.

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[1]Readers are welcomed to reread and to review the past six articles starting with *The Commemorative Trail*, Fall/Winter 1992, Volume 8 - #2, p. 29.

[2]If it had not been for both these sources, Ralph Evans' files, kept at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, and the State Treasurer's files in Des Moines, very little of this whole entire series would have been possible. In a subsequent article, additional facts and details will supplement this mini-series.

[3]Edith W. McElroy, Executive Secretary, *Report of Activities* of the Iowa Centennial Committee, p. 15.

[4]Ibid., p. 16. In 1947, there still remained only forty-eight (48) states, and nothing is recorded for Hawaii and Alaska.

The sales ended by April 1, 1947. The Iowa Centennial Committee held its final meeting sometime on or about the last day of March 1947;[5] this author has been unable to pinpoint the exact date. Shortly thereafter, within a day or so a terse news release was issued announcing the sales "halted." Refer to Figure 1. To note, Charles Barber's name was incorrectly spelled, and this clipping was not found in the copious Ralph Evans' files; rather, someone unknown in the State Treasurer's Office diligently clipped and saved it.

IOWA PRESS
CLIPPING BUREAU
Des Moines, Iowa

Morning Register
Des Moines, Iowa

Centennial Coin Sale Is Halted

Iowa's state centennial coins are all sold, except for the 1,000 being held back for posterity.

Charles Barbour, deputy state treasurer, reported Wednesday that all 99,000 coins placed on public sale in December have been disposed of and future orders will go unfilled.

The coins were sold at $2.50 each for Iowans and $3 for out-of-state residents. Five hundred were held back for sale in 1996, the year of Iowa's 150th statehood anniversary, and 500 more for 2046, when the state will be 200 years old.

Figure 1

To complete the sales of all the half dollars, one lone half dollar still remained. As was reviewed in the previous article (*The Commemorative Trail*, Winter - 1993, Volume 11 - #2), then State Treasurer John M. Grimes's (1873-1971) significant May 6, 1947, letter to the Iowa Centennial Committee's Chairman Lester Milligan (1893-1977) accounted: "Coins On Hand-1; One Commemorative Half Dollar."[6] This lone half dollar was to be the last half dollar sold.

Found in the State Treasurer's files was a short, penciled, undated note but evidently written in early May 1947 from a John Langstraat of Holland Home in Sheldon, Iowa. Mr. Langstraat crudely wrote, on newsprint-quality writing tablet paper, "Dear Sir, would [you] please send me a token of Iowa

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[5]The final meeting may have been held on March 31, 1947, when a Joint Session of Iowa's State Legislature honored the whole Committee.

[6]State Treasurer John M. Grimes, letter of May 6, 1947, to Lester Milligan. Only a carbon copy, not the original, was located.

hundred years old free of charge please it will stay between you and me [sic]."[7] He gave his age as 76.

State Treasurer Grimes, for whatever reason, responded, and in a touching act of generosity, mailed him the lone remaining half dollar. Refer to Figure 2. Mr. Langstraat on May 12, 1947, replied

May 7, 1947

Mr John Langstraat
Holland Home
Sheldon, Iowa

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of recent date. At the time your letter arrived there was just one coin left for sale, which you will find enclosed. It is a gift to you from this office. The regular price is being paid by the Treasurer and two deputies. There were never any coins set aside for gifts.

I hope you will enjoy and appreciate the coin. It is commemorative of one hundred years of the growth of the great State of Iowa.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Treasurer of State

JMG:mvf
encl

Figure 2

with his gratitude, "i [sic] sure appreciate it."[8] Did Mr. Langstraat know one half dollar remained? Was he an old friend of Mr. Grimes, who himself was also in his seventies (70s)? Or was Mr. Langstraat just fortunate? Who knows? Whatever, he is in numismatics listed as the final 'purchaser' of an Iowa half dollar. At least, it reads a sentimental short narrative to the Iowa half-dollar saga.

Others were not so lucky. Nearly two years later, on March 11, 1949, State Treasurer Grimes answered an inquiry rejoining that "the Iowa Commemorative Half Dollars were entirely distributed through his office within two months from the time they were offered and the only ones which are available at this time are those which may be secured from a coin dealer;" he recommends a "Mr. M. C.

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[7]Septuagenarian John Langstraat, undated note to State Treasurer Grimes. Mr. Langstraat did not use punctuation.

[8]John Langstraat, note of May 6, 1947, to State Treasurer Grimes. Mr. Langstraat apparently disapproved also of capitalization and sentences.

Sweney, 1841 Laurel Avenue, St. Paul" who "had some of the coins,"[9] as a potential coin dealer. Why Mr. Sweney and not an Iowa coin dealer? Who knows?

Was this inquiry from a coin hobbyist whose experience with commemorative coin issues of the 1920s and 1930s led him to believe that not all Iowa half dollars had been sold? Or was it a legitimate request? The importance of this letter was that two years had lapsed since the close of the half dollars' sale.

Inasmuch as we know who was the final inquiry and we know a Mr. Langstraat acquired the last Iowa half dollar, then who or what obtained the first one, i.e., the actual first Iowa half dollar minted? Again, the voluminous files of Ralph Evans and the State Treasurer answer, but only partially.

From a March 1, 1948, letter, only a carbon copy remained on file, Governor Robert D. Blue (1898-1989) instructed Ralph Evans that he, the Governor, would "like the Number One coin [Governor's capitalization] presented to the Iowa Historical Society in Des Moines"[10]

Because this 'Number One coin' and the related first fifty (50) half dollars minted have not, as of yet, been accurately verified, their status and the existence of this 'Number One coin' remain uncertain. Did the Historical Society receive it? Yes; however, according to Jerome L. Thompson of the Historical Society's Museum, the Society received not one (1), but four (4), half dollars and that none of these were labeled nor numbered. The matter of these first fifty (50) half dollars minted, which would include this 'Number One coin,' has yet to be clarified.[11]

Returning to the sales and the closing weeks, what were most fascinating to this author were methodical daily tabulations compiled by Edith W. McElroy (1887-1975), Executive Secretary of the Iowa Centennial Committee. Why anyone would have saved these is a mystery at first; yet, having learned the devotion and intensity manifested by Ralph Evans, and shared by Mrs. McElroy, it is understandable. These computations held the same value as a golfer would post a below-par score card or one's first-ever paycheck stub. One of her letters, typical for her routine daily accounting, is given in Figure 3. Note the comments expressed.

Albeit that the Byzantine distribution and fanatical control over the sales have been demonstrated, nowhere in all the files and records did anyone retain a listing of the individual purchasers. Of course, for a mintage of one hundred thousand (100,000) with ninety-nine thousand (99,000) planned to be sold, such a venture would have been tiresome and lubricious; but, from the clippings, carbon copies, and *Report of Activities*, some facts can be learned.

For example, Mrs. McElroy, ever so dedicated, noted in her February 24, 1947, letter to Ralph

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[9]State Treasurer John M. Grimes, letter of March 11, 1947, to a George Manlove, who owned a funeral home in Crane, Missouri, writing his letter on its stationery.

[10]Governor Robert D. Blue, letter of March 1, 1948, to Ralph Evans, written nearly a year after the sales conclusion.

[11]Briefly, the first fifty (50) halves minted were handled separately and shipped directly to the State Treasurer. Their status and existence are a perplexing mystery, a topic of a future article.

[illegible]

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS
[illegible] MT. AYR
[illegible] CUNNINGHAM DES MOINES
[illegible] MARTIN IOWA CITY
[illegible] WILLIAMS DES MOINES
[illegible] M. PARKER DES MOINES
[illegible] P. MULLINS FONDA
RODNEY Q SELBY DES MOINES

RALPH EVANS DAVENPORT
[illegible] DES MOINES

Iowa Centennial Committee

LESTER MILLIGAN, MASON CITY, CHAIRMAN
EDITH WASSON MCELROY, EXECUTIVE SEC'Y

State House
DES MOINES 19, IOWA

March 5, 1947

Dear Ralph:

Following is the coin report for March 4th and 5th. The great majority of these came today as Tuesday as usual was a very light day. The cards all went out and we are beginning to get returns on them, so at least they will pay for themselves!

March 4th and 5th

OUT OF STATE		IOWA	
Orders	Coins	Orders	Coins
80	223	20	40

One dealer's order came to my desk for ten coins. Otherwise all were apparently private individuals.

Cordially,

(signed) Edith

Orders Received March 7th

Out Of State		Iowa.	
Orders	Coins	Orders	Coins
80	223	20	40

(handwritten) Mr. Ralph Evans
90 Station W.O.C.
Davenport Iowa.

Figure 3

Evans that she had mailed "a little publicity down to Philadelphia concerning the fact that Pennsylvania leads all states outside of Iowa in coin orders."[12]

In the broadcasted WHO 'Billboard' program of February 26, 1947, which was spoken of in the prior article, it was reported that "Pennsylvania leads the list of sales outside the Hawkeye State. New Jersey and California are close behind, in second and third places, respectively."[13] Referring to California, transplanted Iowans in southern California were known for their legendary organizations and festivities. In the *Report of Activities*, it was asserted that "members of Iowa Associations in a dozen states, nostalgic for the old home state, send group orders for large numbers of the coins."[14] There seems to have been no identification of these 'Iowa Associations.' Speaking of large orders, there have

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[12]Edith W. McElroy, letter of February 24, 1947, to Ralph Evans. Mrs. McElroy coordinated the Centennial Committee's promotion.

[13]WHO 'Billboard' program, February 26, 1947.

[14]Edith W. McElroy, *Report of Activities*, loc. cit.

been only two confirmed one hundred (100) half-dollar orders: Ralph Evans and Representative Karl LeCompte; refer to previous article. Most all orders were for a single coin or two, but some bulk orders were processed. Mrs. McElroy remarked in her ever-so punctual daily report to Ralph Evans dated February 20, 1947:

> We are getting in a nice little flow of orders from dealers in response to our letter. Most running from 10 to 60 coins. The majority are from 20 to 30. No criticism, but a little order. These orders, which began coming in Monday, are swelling our orders this week, naturally. We may get some repeats on them, too.[15]

The notation of coin dealers is deliberate. Apparently, among some coin dealers, whether inside Iowa or outside Iowa is not distinguished, there were criticisms over the sales, most likely over restrictions on bulk orders. To date, no direct evidence has been ascertained to identify these coin dealers and their complaints. Regardless, these must have had an impact on Ralph Evans and the Iowa Centennial Committee for an open letter was written and mailed to "coin dealers." This letter and its background, although pertinent to the sales, will be postponed to another future article.[16]

Also applicable to this 'coin dealer' letter was the controversy between the Lawrence Brothers, Roy C. and Ray L., of Anamosa, Iowa, and the State Treasurer plus the Iowa Centennial Committee. The Lawrence Brothers were coin and stamp dealers and hobby publishers, and they were determined to obtain two hundred fifty (250) or more half dollars. Since these Lawrence Brothers, who captioned themselves "native Iowans and life-long Republicans" and the 'coin dealer' letter are intertwined, these together will be the subject of a future article. It is sufficient to note here that these two brothers were quite insistent, threatening the Republican State Treasurer by voting Democratic![17]

These Lawrence Brothers and any coin dealers were only an irritation. The Committee had one objective: to sell out and earn the maximum profit.

Based on a total of ninety-eight thousand nine hundred twenty-two (98,922) half dollars sold, the gross total profit earned was $253,565.00. Exactly, eighty-six thousand four hundred two (86,402) halves were sold at $2.50 each, and twelve thousand five hundred twenty (12,520) halves were sold at $3.00 each. Excluding Mr. Langstraat's half dollar, one thousand seventy-seven (1,077) half dollars were not sold. A full tabulation of these figures and the mintage will be done in another article.[18]

The expenses were accounted in State Treasurer Grimes's aforementioned May 6, 1947, letter

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[15]Edith W. McElroy, letter of February 20, 1947, to Ralph Evans. Special deals, discounts, or service were never intended for nor provided to coin dealers.

[16]Why this letter was done and to whom is an intriguing issue, one which has puzzled this author. It would be most provocative to learn, if ever possible, what coin dealers complained. In another article, this author will attempt some explanation.

[17]The Lawrence Brothers' controversy was just as much serious as it was ludicrous. The Brothers even menacing to vote for the recently deceased "FDR!"

[18]To clarify, three thousand eight hundred eighty-four (3,884) half dollars "not distributed by banks" were returned to and later sold by the State Treasurer at $3.00 each.

and were [19]

Cost of Coins	$50,000.00
Coin Holders	11.25
Coin Holders	29.00
Coin Holders	69.00
Shipping Boxes	6.30
Shipping Boxes	10.20
Express	1.84
Express	9.70
Express	27.60
Expense in Coin Campaign, Iowa Bankers Association	296.13
Expense--Iowa-Des Moines National Bank	294.22
Expense--Central National Bank	485.14
Expense--Bankers Trust Company	38.31
Postage--Treasurer's Office	2,207.70
Expense--Centennial Committee	2,505.00
Total	$55,991.39

On January 5, 1949, over two years later, Governor Blue, acting under the authority of HR 2377, the half-dollar's legislation, would formally direct and transfer the profits plus the renowned one thousand (1,000) half dollars (refer to *The Commemorative Trail*, Winter 1990, Volume 6 - #1) to "the custody" of the still active Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation. Closing this mini-series, the most elegant words expressed at the end of the many months toiled in the distribution and sales were written by Frank Warner (1888-1982), the revered Executive Secretary of the Iowa Bankers Association (IBA), and his testimony best finishes this "Collectors, Too, Buy The Coin." In his May 4, 1947, letter to Mrs. McElroy, he flattered, "You should have nothing but feelings of great gratification and satisfaction on having consummated the project in such a magnificent and superb manner."[20]

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Files and records of the treasurer of state, State of Iowa.

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[19]The expenses were itemized as shown, but the United States Mint did invoice $525.00 for "die charges." Where was it included?

[20]Frank Warner, Executive Secretary for the Iowa Bankers Association, letter of April 4, 1947, to Edith W. McElroy. Mr. Warner had a verbose way with words.

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* * *

I particularly want to call our members' attention to the following article. It was written by our publicity co-chairperson, ***Danny Hoffman****. While an officer's writing an article is not in itself a "unique" occurrence (we need look only to the many contributions of Frank DuVall and Anthony Swiatek during the past club year), it is noteworthy that Danny, on a continuing basis, willingly offers his assistance to advance the Society in any way he can—despite the fact he is a full-time student, maintains excellent grades, has part-time employment, and is very actively involved in several other numismatic organizations including the American Numismatic Association. His attitude and contributions to support our club are invaluable, and I wish to go on record to say the Society is particularly fortunate to have such a dedicated and committed supporter.*

THE NATIVES WERE RESTLESS

by Danny C. Hoffman (J-073, SC)

Captain James Cook was possibly the first white man ever to set foot on Hawaii. When he discovered the Hawaiian Islands in 1778, he first dubbed them the Sandwich Islands, after Lord Sandwich. For quite some time the natives thought him to be Lono, their white god. Soon after their reverence of him died down; one of the natives stole a cutter from his ship, the Discovery. Cook was infuriated with them and the next morning went after them. When he reached the island, the natives met his group with a mob of their own. He planned on capturing their chief, Kalei'opu, and demand that they give him the cutter. It did not work out this way though. One of the natives pulled a knife and waved it around Cook. Cook calmly pulled his musket and blasted the native's head with it (the native was wearing a war bonnet that absorbed the bullet, however). A fight began, and the British, despite having better weapons, retreated because they were outnumbered (Cook had only ten men with him). When the men returned to the ship, they realized that Cook was not with them. Cook had tripped while trying to retreat. When the natives found him, they hacked him limb from limb. Several days later the natives returned the body to the crew.

On December 5, 1927, a bill was introduced to congress that allowed for 10,000 Hawaiian Sesquicentennial commemorative coins to be minted (actually, 10,008 coins were issued including assay

coins. The coins were designed by Juliette Mae Fraser and sculpted by Chester Beach. The designs depict a portrait of Captain Cook on the obverse and a Hawaiian warrior on the reverse with Waikiki Beach at the foot of Diamond Head in the background. Beach's original models received much criticism from the Mint and the representative of Hawaii, Victor K. Houston. The following is the discussion among Beach, Houston, and the Mint (drawn from Taxay's *History of U.S. Commemorative Coinage*):

Houston: Dog tooth anklet out of place as pertaining to dancer instead of warrior.

Beach: Will remove if ordered; it has a value in the design however, of breaking the long line of the leg. I send the authority I worked on: I inferred from the design sent me that the chief, carrying his spear and wearing his royal cloak, was making a proud gesture of welcome or proprietorship, which ever you will; in other words had on ceremonial clothes. Would he not also wear another prized possession, his anklet of sharks' teeth? If a warrior, he surely would not wear a million-dollar feather coat into battle. If the cloak why not the anklet? I note that the anklet is of sharks' teeth, and would endeavor to show these more as such if it is retained in the design.

Houston: The cocoanut tree should be more natural.

Beach: Will investigate further as suggested.

Houston: Remove the star after "Capt" and use a triangle.

Beach: Compass (not star) will be removed if desired: related to the Sea Captain and explorer, and his gaze is westward. Can make the compass arrow more evident.

Houston: Transpose the dates "1778-1928" and the words "Half-dollar".

Beach: The words "Half-dollar" directly under the chief looked out of place to me, as if he were asking for a half-dollar. It also is generally shown on the fifty-cent piece reading "The U. S. of America: Half-dollar." Do not regulations ask for it on the side I have it? All that I have seen are on this side. The Mint and Commission must decide this question.

Houston: Remove the ferns under "E Pluribus Unum".

Beach: The ferns are necessary for the balance and line of the design: I will make parts slightly lower in relief, but the design would lose without them.

Houston: Follow the outline of Diamond Head more as per original profile.

Beach: Will be changed.

Houston: Emphasize the outline of the grass houses.

Beach: Will be changed.

Houston: Cloak should not pucker and balloon at bottom.

Beach: Will be changed.

Houston: Helmet and "male" smoother.

Beach: Will be changed.

Houston: On the rim of Captain Cook side [obverse], triangles preferred to the Grecian Wave.

Beach: Not "Grecian," but just the waves of the ocean that Capt. Cook sailed. Will change if ordered, to triangles. Discussed this with Fraser before starting coin; preferred this type of wave to the triangles indicated. I think the 8 triangular islands gain by this contrast of water.

Houston: Roman letters instead of English of Cook's period.

Beach: Prefer the English letters in this case; will open up letters where congested and where there is any doubt of stamping. It seemed to me an opportunity to break the monotony of having the letters always the Roman style on all the coins. The letters I have used have slightly more movement, and seemed to suggest the sea. And this coin is distinctive of the sea on both sides.

Mint: Height of relief.

Beach: Please have Mint authorities indicate on the photograph, from what they remember of the model, the doubtful points in stamping coin. With these in mind I will go over it carefully again, lowering high points or filling in back of them.

As we can see, Houston made many trivial changes and quibbled over many things. After Houston had finished his bickering, Secretary of the Treasury Mellon approved the models on the 9th of May.

The coins were sold at $2 apiece, the highest price for a commemorative coin up until that time. They were issued in plain paper envelopes. The Philadelphia Mint produced 8 assay pieces, 200 presentation strikes, 4,975 for sale in the mainland U.S., 4,975 for sale in Hawaii, and 50 matte proofs. They quickly sold out, and gem examples are still in high demand today.

The Hawaiian Sesquicentennial commemorative marks not only the 150th anniversary of the Hawaiian isles but also honors Captain Cook and his exploration. It is ironic that he is on the coin that commemorates the island that killed him.

* * *

As we have learned from Q. David Bowers' article in this issue, the Grant half dollar is the only design which was also used on a commemorative coin of another denomination, the 1922 Grant gold dollar. Our Society's vice president has provided us with the following detailed review of these two varieties.

THE GRANT MEMORIAL ISSUES

by Anthony Swiatek (R-0004, NY)

DATE	BUSINESS STRIKES	ASSAY COINS	PROOFS	MELTED	NET MINTAGE
1922 ★ 50¢.	5,006	6	4?	750	4,250
1922 PL 50¢	95,055	55	4?	27,650	67,350
1922 ★ $1	5,016	16	4?	0	5,000
1922 PL $1	5,000	0	4?	0	5,000

OFFICIAL SALE PRICE:
1922 ★ 50¢.: $1 (LATER, $.75).
1922 PL 50¢.: $1 (LATER, $1.50).
1922 ★ $1: $3.50.
1922 PL $1: $3

AUTHORIZED PER ACT OF FEBRUARY 2, 1922: 250,000 50¢ and 10,000 $1 GOLD.

REASON FOR ISSUE: In order to commemorate the centenary of the birth of General Ulysses S. Grant, late President of the United States, a Grant memorial gold dollar and a Grant memorial silver half dollar were minted. Collectors address both the gold and silver issues as the "Grant" or "Grant Plain" and address the gold and silver variety with its small incused five-pointed star as the "Grant with Star" or "Grant Star."

Obverse design: Laura Gardin Fraser 	Both the gold and silver issues portray the bust of General Ulysses S. Grant, adapted from a photo by Matthew Brady, in uniform, facing right. Located in the left field and right field, respectively, is his name ULYSSES S. GRANT. Situated below the bust are the anniversary dates, 1822-1922. A small letter G, representing the artist's maiden name, was placed between the dates by the Mint, as was previously done with the Columbian and the Pilgrim issues. Located in the right field above the N of GRANT on the variety is the incused five-pointed star. The only difference in design between the issues is the words HALF and ONE indicating the denomination!

Reverse:	Both the gold and silver issues depict a fenced clapboard house symbolic of the house where Grant lived as a boy in Georgetown, Ohio. Maple trees are present in the coin's field, along with our country's mottoes. This issue was designed by Laura Gardin Fraser (who also created the Alabama, Fort Vancouver, and Oregon Trail obverse) makes no reference to a Grant memorial. Her maiden initial (G) was most likely used by the Mint, since her husband's initial (F) was placed on the Indian or Buffalo nickel which was also being produced that year. Mrs. Fraser incorporates no reference in her design to the reason for commemoration—a Grant Memorial. She permits the design itself to tell the story.
Edge design:	Reeded.

THE GRANT *THEN*

These memorial coins were struck at the Philadelphia Mint during March 1922. The first 5,000 gold coins (plus 16 for assay purposes) were struck with the "star." After the star was removed, 5,000 gold $1 were struck. With the gold production completed, 5,006 silver half dollars were produced "with the star." Then with the star removed 95,055 "plain Grants" were coined. Does the incused star have any significance? Had Grant been a one-star general, such would have been appropriate. However, Grant's rank in the Union Army requires three additional stars. Unfortunately, the star bears no significance, as does the incused 2 X 2 on the Alabama variety and the 2★4 on the Missouri variety, other than satisfying the Grant Centenary Memorial Commission.

All coins were offered for sale in April 1922, with the silver 50-cent pieces selling at $1.00 each and the plain gold dollar selling at $3.00 each. Purchasing the variety required an additional fifty cents ($3.50). No gold coins were returned to the Mint. When silver sales—which were previously excellent—finally came to a standstill, it was decided by the Commission to offer approximately 29,000 specimens of the plain variety at 75 cents each when purchased in lots of ten or more coins. About eight hundred unsold "Grant with Star" specimens were offered for sale but at an additional half dollar.

There were few buyers, thus 27,650 plain specimens were returned along with 750 "Stars" to the Mint and melted. This leaves us with a present-day mintage of 67,350 "Grant Plains" and only 4,250 "Grant with Star" specimens.

THE GRANT *NOW*

The Grant Plain or no-star half dollar is quite available in EF-AU condition. Suggest selecting naturally worn, undoctored pieces without detracting surface cuts if acquisition is desired. Majority of this creation resides in the MS-60 through MS-63 state and, to a lesser degree, in strict MS-64 condition. Surface attractiveness should be your key when buying this commem. Future potential begins at the MS-64+ level. Any grade less should be acquired for the pure joy of collecting. Eye-appealing MS-65 and loftier rated specimens are not that easy located.

Luster will range from blazing frosty (not the norm) to dull frosty, displaying that powdery look. Strike rarely presents a problem for this issue. The detail in Grant's hair, beginning from the temple area and going inward above the ear about sixty percent toward the back of the head, will be faintly seen. This was caused by the wearing of the obverse dies in that area as the coins were being struck, since little detail was present to begin with. (The same is not true for the small gold dollars, for all hair detail is present in the aforementioned area.) The above mentioned is accepted as characteristic for the issue.

The rarer Grant Star issue, which is a very popular collector coin, can be obtained in EF-AU condition. Unfortunately, most of the encountered pieces will display some form of surface doctoring, whose objective is to hide some degree of surface wear or bag mark(s) or slide mark(s), etc. It is truly a very scarce coin in grades MS-60 through MS-64 and a rare coin in the loftier classifications. This is the result of much numismatic abuse. Luster

will range from semi prooflike to blazing lustrous (both not the norm) to dull satiny. It isn't too often that one encounters blazing lustrous pieces. Strike will pose no problem for the issue. Those early no-die clash mark specimens will show fine hair detail in the center of Grant's head, while coinage flaunting the clash mark will not. Approximately a few dozen were created before the dies clashed. Creation was produced from perfect, clashed and lapped dies. Those raised lines, which can be observed in the obverse field, are die polishing marks. If cut into this surface, they are detracting scratches and lower the coin's value!

As production of the Grant with Star half dollar commenced, approximately several dozen pieces were created. Suddenly, no blank or planchet was fed into the coinage chamber. Dies crashed against each other. Such resulted in the obverse die flaunting a flatter and fainter image of the reverse design, which was now superimposed on it, while the reverse die displayed a faint image of the obverse motif. This condition had to be remedied, since the Mint wanted to save on the expense of making new dies. They were then heavily buffed, in order to grind down the die surface, thereby lessening the consequence of the clash marks. When placed into service, they will possess signs of the mishap. These are the die buffing and polishing marks, as well as now less conspicuous clash marks. Thus, Grant with Star specimens struck from this pair of dies (and the remainder of the entire issue) would display different degrees of die polishing or raised lines, especially on the obverse field, depending on the order of striking. Not all of the die clashing marks were removed, as can be seen in the following photographs A and B:

(PHOTO A)

(PHOTO B)

Nearly all of the flatter and fainter letters from the obverse word UNITED can be seen almost upright, within most of our motto E PLURIBUS UNUM's reverse design (Photo A). The field clash mark parallel to the obverse letters IT of UNITED are what remains from the almost removed tree branches.

TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR, NOW COLLECTORS WILL SEE WHERE YOU ARE!!!

Fifty-eight years ago the Grant with Star issue was selling for $65.00, and the Grant Plain for $3.50. A dentist decided to purchase a quantity of the less expensive issue and personally incused his own star. This cavity driller's objective was to create a twinkle in the eyes of the potential buyer—and fatten his pockets. The pain would be felt later.

We cannot recognize his "mint," nor appreciate his effort in attempting to make more Grant with Star specimens—which was the highest priced commemorative of all U.S. commemorative issues in 1935—available to collectors, bargain hunters and investors. We must be able to distinguish between his, as well as other corrupt "additions," and the Philadelphia Mint's production.

GENUINE FEATURES OR NUMISMATIC BIRTHMARKS!

The following distinguishing characteristics will help you determine whether your star is for real: A) A most obvious clash mark will be present around Grant's chin and in the area of his necktie and by the letter G of Grant just right of his tie. Virtually all of the genuine issue will display these characteristics (Photo C). B) Those few, much rarer specimens produced before the dies clashed will not flaunt the said clash marks. They will reveal a small raised pimple or lump of metal just within the star located just below its nine o'clock location. Such can also be seen on the clashed die variety (Photos D & E). C) The star is located above the letter N and not the letter A of GRANT (as seen on some surface-altered pieces).

WHAT WILL MOST GENUINE GRANT WITH STAR HALF DOLLARS LOOK LIKE?

Note clash marks—which were part of the reverse tree leaves—at the general's chin and tie, as well as the dot within the star.

(PHOTO C)

THE RARER AND GENUINE GRANT WITH STAR HALF DOLLAR

These were minted BEFORE the dies clashed (Photo D). Obverse small dot within star—which must be present (Photo E) for genuineness.

(PHOTO D)

(PHOTO E)

Problems usually arise when a real no-clash mark specimen is offered. Look at the Photo C of the genuine clash die specimens. You will observe a small dot within the star at the nine o'clock position. The original thirty to fifty coins produced before the BANG will also have a lump of metal in the same position. However, it will be a shallow dot. It won't be as bold as the clashed specimen's dot. In order to see it, you must rotate the coin and tilt the coin slowly, using a 3x to 5x glass. Very difficult to capture in a photograph. When the shallow dot is present, the coin is genuine (Photo E). Should you have such a coin but need numismatic assurance, give a call and/or send for examination.

THE D.D.S. STAR!

(PHOTO F)

When encountered, you will first obverse the coin lacking those obvious chin and tie clash marks, in addition to lacking the small dot within the star (Photo C). Field around the star will look as if it is carving in, to some degree. Needless to say, the Doctor of Dental Science star was not incused at the Philadelphia Mint! (Photo F).

A POSSIBLE RARE MINT ERROR?

(PHOTO G)

(PHOTO H)

Not really! Could be that the "puncher" thought he or she was clever by punching a star over the letter A of GRANT, instead of the correct letter N. The objective may have been to have the uneducated think a mint employee made a mistake and a few pieces of this rarity escaped! Could also be the symbol was placed over the incorrect letter because the puncher could not take the time to check for accuracy.

You'd be surprised at the number of dealers in our hobby who cannot tell whether the issue is good or bad!!! In fact, if you gave some of them a British penny for their thoughts, you'd have change coming! Well, you won't be fooled by an altered surface Grant with Star half dollar. We can't call it counterfeit because the coin is a genuine Grant Plain.

HOW CAN I DETERMINE IF MY GRANT MEMORIAL SILVER ISSUE POSSESSES ANY WEAR?

Simply examine Grant's cheekbone. Wear will make its presence known here (provided no doctoring has taken place). Why? The rim offers little protection to this area which is the coin's high point or first location to display wear. Imagine if we were able to purchase (this coin) at face value. It would not cause us any grief to experiment and see where wear first begins. Placing the coin face down and using some light pressure, we would move the silver disc in an up and down direction (totaling six inches) just once. Upon examination, wear will be visible only on his cheekbone. As for the reverse, ten or more tries would have to be made before any signs of wear can be noted on the tree's leaves. However, such

will be visible on the rim which protects the lower relief of the reverse design. The aforementioned can explain the reason why we encounter pieces that have doctored obverse (or natural AU obverse) and gem original reverse, especially on the more expensive Star issue.

Doctoring the wear on the cheekbone is done to hide the loss of metal. The amount of light brass wire brushing or buffing of this area depends on the skill of the "brusher" or the "buffer." Fortunately, the most skilled will not fool the knowledgeable. Remember that! During a conversation with a coin doctor and his friend, it was mentioned that the CD was studying sculpturing at evening classes. Guess he didn't appreciate when I said another word for sculpturing is CHISELING!

Slowly rotate the top of Grant's head to the nine o'clock position. Then move the coin back and forth. Using 3x to 5x magnification, very fine hairlines covering the portrait and possibly extending into the field or fields should be observed. If buffed or lightly polished to also simulate mint luster, an unnatural appearance will make itself known. Reverse and obverse should have a similar look, provided the fully original reverse has not been dipped in a tarnish removing solution in order to lessen the luster's appearance. Why? The obvious becomes the not so obvious to the neophyte. Suspicions are not aroused! Overgraded coins are thus purchased!

At times, it hurts when you attempt to educate the above type of individual. They just don't want to learn or believe they know as much as you do! One such person struck me as being dumb enough to get a 50% discount from a mind reader or fortune-teller!

WHAT'S THE CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE POTENTIAL OF THE GRANT MEMORIAL HALF DOLLAR AT PRESENT?

Population Figures
(NGC and PCGS combined)

DATE	MS-63	MS-64	MS-65	MS-66
1922 NO STAR	983	1143	525	87
1922 STAR	312	275	80	10

To date, 11 Grant Plain or no-star commemorative half dollars were graded MS-67. None has been rated MS-68. One Grant with Star half was rated higher than MS-66. It was a recent upgrade.

In circulated condition, the Grant without star is available. Pieces exhibiting a small dot between the 22 of the date 1922 bring no premiums at present. Our rarer Star issue is usually encountered whizzed or cleaned. These coins are worth less than the undoctored coin's bid level. Your higher mintage Grant Plain or no star is fairly valued in grades MS-60 through MS-64. During the May 1989 market high, there existed an approximate $1,500 difference between the latter grade and our MS-65 coinage. Expect item to be promoted during the next upturn. Acquire the aforesaid for the pride of ownership. Would reduce population figure between 20% to 25%. Real future potential begins with attractive MS-64+ no-star pieces.

A strictly graded MS-65 Grant Plain is presently undervalued. Reject the dark, dull and debatable coin—which is not! Past price spread between this category and your MS-66 rating was $3,500! Would delete population figures by 15% to 20%. Excellent future potential here, as well as in the rarer MS-66 grade and MS-67 grades! Simply remember to pass if such a Grant without star should cross your path, flaunting these lofty numbers, doesn't salute

you or address your fancy.

Our silver Grant with Star commemoratives, grading MS-60 through MS-62 have actually risen in value from the noted market high! Currently, they are fairly priced. Good future potential really begins with those pieces grading MS-63 and higher. Prefer an attractive, original, undipped MS-63+ coin. Ditto MS-64 coinage. Your non-clash mark variety will bring more money. Howbeit, all is dependent upon the coin. Would delete census between 25% and 30%. Past price spread between the latter grade and MS-65 was a whopping $14,000! Why? So few were encapsulated at the higher level. Expect it to be heavily promoted in the next market heat.

Great coin to possess in MS-65 condition. Pass on the questionable. You want to see original surfaces should your coin be toned. Would delete census between 15% and 20%. Excellent future potential for the rarest silver commemorative struck since 1892 in grades MS-62 and higher. In MS-66 condition we are talking about a very rare item. Would reduce its population by 50%! What a great coin to have in one's collection.

Beware of an offered raw or unencapsulated well-struck Star—no die clash—specimen, flaunting a milky or powdery surface offered as a matte proof. In my opinion, it's not and never saw the acid bath at the Philadelphia Mint.

WHAT ABOUT THE GRANT GOLD DOLLARS?

Specimens of either issue residing in the EF-AU state are not abundant. Some form of numismatic abuse has caused their downfall. Based on their past history, Grant golds grading from MS-60 through MS-63 (no-star or Star variety) should only be considered for the pure joy of collecting. The Plain is a bit rarer in these grades. Future value definitely lies in these gold disks strictly grading MS-64 and better. The no-star issue will be more difficult to acquire in MS-65 and higher levels. Present value spread does not reflect this situation.

BEWARE OF THE IMPOSTORS!

Die struck counterfeits do exist. The telltale signs we should look for are file marks between UNITED and the rim, as well as die scratches above and between the "OF" as well as the "A" in OF AMERICA, on the reverse. Also a number of spikes will angle into the field from the P of PLURIBUS halfway up to the I of IN. Cast fakes display a blurry or unsharp powdery appearance.

KEY GRADING POINTS

OBVERSE: Wear first occurs on General Grant's cheekbone. Coin's rim does little to protect this area, which is virtually equal in height. The slightest abuse will cause friction. Look for a difference in metal texture in this location. Portrait is the primary focal area. Marks and negatives are detrimental to value and grade in this location. Prime target for whizzing and other forms of doctoring.

REVERSE: Issue's rim does an excellent job of protecting the first areas to display wear. This is the central section of leaves located directly above the second and third tree trunks from the left. If this coin is to display wear, it will occur on the obverse.

WHAT'S THE CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE POTENTIAL OF THE GRANT MEMORIAL GOLD DOLLARS AT PRESENT?

Population Figures
(NGC and PCGS combined)

DATE	MS-63	MS-64	MS-65	MS-66
1922 NO STAR	282	432	284	112
1922 STAR	228	537	455	177

To date, 12 Grant Plain or no-star gold dollars and 27 Grant Star gold pieces were encapsulated MS-67. None have been graded MS-68! When examining the entire commemorative production from 1892 through 1954, the single most expensive coin available in circulated condition is the Grant with Star gold dollar ($1,100), followed by the no star variety ($850). [There are circulated silver issues, such as the Hawaiian ($700) and Spanish Trail ($600) which are worth more than most lightly worn gold issues which comprise the 11-piece set.] At current levels, both strikings appear fairly priced in grades XF-AU through MS-64. Acquire for the joy of collecting. The rarer no-star variety in MS-63+ or MS-64+ condition offers a better chance at future gains. Reject the unattractive and questionable pieces. During the noted marketplace high, price spread between these MS-64 and MS-65 gold dollars was approximately $3,300. Would delete population figures between 25% and 30%. Expect prices to rise during the next promotional market heat. Use that period to sell; then repurchase when values return to lower levels if desired.

Grant Plains grading MS-65 are undervalued at present levels. Eye-appealing pieces offer very good future potential. Consider this variety over the Star which is a tad underpriced. Reject the questionable offerings. Difference in value between this and your MS-66 striking was approximately $6,100 during the last high! Populations were much lower.

Real future for both creations lies in the undervalued MS-66 category. Together they would have cost you $32,000+ in late May 1989! Wouldn't mind owning one of those lofty MS-67 pieces, although MS-66 encapsulations—especially the no star—seems like a great buy.

* * *

It is always a joy when I open my post office box and find a familiar white envelope bearing the "Forman & Bauer, Inc." letterhead. I know I have in store for me a fascinating tale of numismatics from years gone by, which I then have the privilege to share with other Society members. This article had a post-it attached to it, which read: "Hope you and the other members enjoy this story from the past. (signed) Harry." Harry, you can be sure we all will, and thank you for your continuing support of our club and particularly your willingness to take your valuable time and energy to record your remembrances for our benefit.

FORMAN'S FOND RECOLLECTIONS

by Harry J. Forman (R-1149, PA)

Back in the early 1970s, I visited New York City quite often. One of my favorite stopping places was at America's oldest and most prestigious coin shop, Stack's, at 123 West 57th Street in Manhattan. It so happened that I really liked all of the Stacks, Morton and Joseph, the fathers of Harvey and Ben and Norman. Larry was still too young to enter the business. I often attended their auctions, frequently consigned material, and bought or sold coins or paper money with every visit.

On one occasion Harvey and Norman both offered me a complete 144-piece commemorative half-dollar set, at a very reasonable price, with an extended period to pay for this nice, BU set. Having no particular prospect for a quick sale, unless I wanted to resell the set to Fred Vollmer, who was then very active in commemoratives, I passed. "Take it," Harvey and Norman both urged me. Finally, my good friend, the late Benjamin Stack, came in, and with his urging I weakened and took the set with me as I left the premises. The price at the time was probably $7,500. The set was nice—plenty of MS-65 and

better by today's standards. Driving away toward my next stop, Mantra, Tordella & Brookes on West 49th Street. I wondered to whom I might offer this set at a small profit.

Across the street from MTB was a parking garage, where I usually parked. I walked across the street, was greeted by MTB employee Paul Nugget (who later started his own company and is quite successful), and proceeded to do business with Paul. Soon the back door opened, and the boss man himself, Luis Vigdor, came out to say hello.

"Harry, by any chance would you know where I could purchase a nice complete 144-piece set of commemorative half dollars?" he uttered. For a moment I was stunned, practically speechless. I finally answered, "I just happen to have one with me." I took out the set quickly, came to terms with Luis Vigdor, and acted as though it was almost a daily occurrence. "How strange," I wondered as I drove the New Jersey Turnpike back to Philadelphia. Nearing Philadelphia, I detoured to Holland, Pennsylvania, a suburb where my associate, Ruth Bauer, resides. I told her of the unusual events. She immediately put a check in the mail for payment to Stack's, even though we had made arrangements for payment over an extended term.

I have never told this story to Harvey Stack and have always wondered whether he was surprised to receive payment for this 144-piece commemorative set 58 days early...

Well, Harry, I so enjoyed this anecdote of two decades ago that I thought Harvey Stack would as well. Although not a member, perhaps Harvey will become one—if for no other reason to read your regular columns, which are favorites of mine and many others. At least you can cease wondering what Harvey thought; I'm sure he'll telephone or write you! It would be superb if both of you wrote of your numismatic experiences—of times long ago and not so long ago. What a legacy to leave for future generations!

* * *

REMINDER

Please remember to submit your articles on disk if possible. As I work with an IBM-compatible computer and WordPerfect 5.1, perhaps you can use that program as well. If not, any other will be totally acceptable as long as I am able to read the disk.

But don't let these conditions stop you from writing an article. I am also more than willing to work from a hard copy, i.e., the printed page.

Now all you need are time, energy, and a desire to see your byline appear in our journal!

Hurry, the deadline for the next issue is **now**!

* * *

One question I am always asked is "What sparked your interest in numismatics?" Obviously, people are interested in what motivated others to embark upon collecting. One of our members, a devoted supporter of the Society, addresses this topic in the following article.

MY JOURNEY ALONG THE COMMEMORATIVE TRAIL

by James J. Dooley (R-1809, CA)

I love reading about how others began their journeys along the commemorative trail. While many authors may secretly fear that their stories are mundane and of interest only to themselves, each of their stories is, of course, unique and can provide fascinating reading for like-minded collectors. I hope you will find my personal travelogue interesting.

Upon reflection, I must recognize that my trip really began about 25 years ago, at the age of 10. It was 1968, and I was serving as my school's "milk monitor." While performing my duties, I began to take notice of the occasional oddity among the coins received from my youthful customers. Since I was fascinated by U.S. history, I found the uniquely American buffalo nickel to be especially interesting. With the encouragement of my paternal grandfather, I was soon on my way to becoming a full-fledged coin collector.

It wasn't long before my enthusiasm convinced my best friend to come along for the ride. Among my fondest memories are the many long hours we spent at his kitchen table touring the splendor of our growing collections. Also among my fondest collecting memories are our weekend outings to the local coin shop, San Pedro Stamp and Coin. We always went straight to the Lincoln cents, hoping to find some needed specimens in our favorite series. Grade meant nothing. If there was a space for a coin in our Whitman folder and it fit into our small budgets, it was a candidate for purchase. Of course, later we began to recognize that a 75¢ specimen of a particular date and mint was invariably nicer than a 25¢ one, but even then the emphasis was always on working toward filling every hole in our folders.

The first collection I ever completed was a set of circulated silver Roosevelt dimes. Shortly after reaching that milestone, at 12 or 13 years of age, puberty abruptly placed a compelling fork in the road. The academic pursuits of junior high school, the extracurricular activities, and the new friends unschooled in the numismatic tradition all contributed toward the 29-year detour in my numismatic itinerary. It was at the age of 30, while in pursuit of holders for coins inherited from my grandfather, that the numismatic adventure suddenly became a passion again.

I read everything I could find on the subject of coins and collecting. I subscribed to *Coin World* and *Numismatic News*. Through these two weekly publications, I took note of the pending 500th anniversary of Columbus' first voyage to the New World and the attendant sales hype for the 1892/93 Columbian commemorative half dollars. At my first major coin convention—the June 1989 Long Beach Expo—I purchased my first commemorative, a PCGS MS-61 1893 Columbian half dollar. With this first purchase and the help and encouragement of a great dealer and friend, my life on the commemorative trail began in earnest.

At first, I naively entertained the highly unrealistic goal of assembling a complete 144-piece silver commemorative set. I eventually settled on building a type set of all 48 different commemorative half-

dollar designs minted between 1892 and 1954. Completing this set is one of my most important goals in life.

Many of the people I have met along the trail have been sources of inspiration and friendship. As a member of the Society for U.S. Commemorative Coins, I have come to know and, in some cases, do business with some of the finest individuals I have ever known. A couple who come immediately to mind are the Carmodys, Helen and Don. Their devotion to our Society and numismatic education is already legendary. But the way they treat the people they meet, with patience and generosity, is their real claim to fame. Others who occupy my numismatic hall of fame include Pat Davis, the local dealer who generously nurtured my love for commemoratives; Anthony Swiatek and Q. David Bowers, my favorite numismatic authors; and Larry Shepherd, who has made it possible for me to study and, in some cases, obtain some of the most incredibly beautiful coins I have ever seen. In the beauty of a spectacularly toned commemorative, as in the beauty of a spectacular sunset, I am convinced that one can indeed see the face of God.

The lure of numismatics involves more than the mere acquisition of coins, tokens, medals, and paper money. Numismatics is a science that transcends the mere study of inanimate metal objects. The wonderful thing about commemoratives is that the study of the coins themselves inspires an interest in the historic persons and events they commemorate. The pursuit of knowledge becomes quite independent of the source of its inspiration. My life would be less rich had I not rediscovered the magic of numismatics.

My tour along the commemorative trail has really only just begun. And without my earlier childhood excursion into the wonderful world of numismatics, I may never had made the journey at all. But with the Society for U.S. Commemorative Coins as my tour guide, *The Commemorative Trail* as a map, and knowledge, accomplishment and enjoyment as the destinations, I know I've found a road of lifelong challenge and fulfillment.

* * *

Jim, I want you to know how very much I appreciated—and enjoyed—your article. It is always gratifying to know members are benefiting from belonging to the Society and, as a club, we are fostering the ideals of numismatics. On behalf of Don and myself, and I know the other members to whom you referred, thank you for your sentiments. You are indeed a valued member and a credit to the SUSCC.

* * *

REMINDER

Please contact Vice President and Program Chairman, Anthony Swiatek, *today* and advise when you would like to give a presentation at one of our Society's meetings.

Any subject relating to U.S. commemorative coins, related medals or documentation—or any other tie-in—will be ideal.

* * *

It is a great pleasure to present an article from a member who is making his first contribution to the pages of our journal. He answered my plea for submissions, and I was just delighted when I received

He even sent me a disk on which he successfully saved his writing in a WordPerfect 5.1 format. You know I will be looking in my mail for many more articles from this gentlemen! Now sit back, relax, and enjoy a feature on a subject that we have not yet given any previous in-depth treatment.

EXHIBITING WITH COMMEMORATIVES

by Steven J. Devlin (R-2001, MI)

Coin exhibiting is one great way to display your coins and tell people about them. For people who don't collect coins, commemorative coins are certainly a novelty to them. An exhibit can show these people the history behind our commemorative coins. Not only will they be seeing coins they have never seen before, but they'll learn something new, and perhaps be given a nudge towards learning more about coins.

In many periodicals that I've been reading, and this includes our own *Commemorative Trail*, there have been numerous calls for recruiting new coin collectors, and in our case new commemorative collectors. One way to introduce others to the hobby is to do a well-designed exhibit using commemorative coins. For those who know little or nothing at all of commemorative coins, what better teaching tool is there than the visual impact of an exhibit?

Where could an exhibit be set up? Obviously, the first answer that comes to mind would be coin shows. Most major coin shows have an exhibit area separated from the main bourse floor where people can quietly view the different exhibits. However, coin shows aren't the only place to have an exhibit. My local library has a secured case in which a new display is set up every month for visitors' viewing. A coin exhibit there during National Coin Week could certainly give the hobby a boost. Some area banks and museums also have secured display cases which could be utilized for an exhibit.

There are a few guidelines for creating a successful exhibit. First and foremost is to keep the exhibit simple. Too much text will cause most viewers to give the display a cursory glance and then move on. Don't clutter the display with too many items; if there is an abundance of items for the display, pick the most important and interesting items. If the exhibit was well received, the unused items could be put in a future exhibit. The lettering font and size should be easily readable by all viewers. Use colors that are pleasant to look at, and at the same time bring out the beauty of the commemorative coin. Finally, the exhibit doesn't need to have an expensive coin. Many prize-winning exhibits have had low monetary values; it was the educational value that made them winners.

Obviously, each commemorative coin can be an exhibit relying on its own merits. Each has its own story to tell. Many non-commemorative collectors (and even some commemorative collectors) don't know the reason for each commemorative's issuance. An exhibit could give the background story of the person, place, or festivities being commemorated. The exhibit could reflect how people felt about the issue being commemorated, whether they were proud local people, or if the issue was of a national importance that showed the entire country's pride—or perhaps there was a lot of ballyhoo being raised in objection to the commemorative's issuance. It could be interesting to note if the commemorative would have had a chance of being issued if its legislation were brought up today.

For example, a Stone Mountain Memorial commemorative exhibit could go into detail about the artist Gutzon Borglum, his other creations (i.e., Mount Rushmore), and the politics he played while

attempting to do the actual monument in Georgia. Or the exhibit could show a background on the monument itself—how the idea started, the people involved in the project, and the years it took to complete it, along with pictures throughout its development. The exhibit could give biographical sketches of the generals (Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson), tracing their lives from birth to death, again using pictures whenever possible. Finally, there could be mention of the reverse inscription "MEMORIAL TO THE VALOR OF THE SOLDIER OF THE SOUTH." Originally, there was to be mention of President Warren Harding, but somewhere along the line he was dropped from the picture. There's a story in there somewhere just waiting to be told. See how many different aspects could be revealed using just one commemorative! And there's probably more information that could be gleaned from the Stone Mountain half that I haven't even thought of. The point is, each commemorative has tons of useful information that could be interestingly incorporated into an exhibit.

How about an exhibit depicting the commemorative designers that produced more than one commemorative? There are eleven designers who were responsible in creating or helping to create 27 of the 50 commemorative coins. Incidentally, all the gold commemorative coins were designed by 6 of these 11 designers. Perhaps you could find some other example of their artistic creations to place in the exhibit.

An exhibit could show some commemorative coin designers who also designed regular circulating coins. Charles E. Barber, who designed the Lafayette dollar, Isabella quarter, the Panama-Pacific Exposition half, and the obverse of the Columbian Exposition, is better known for his Liberty Head nickels and the series of Barber dimes, quarters, and halves. George T. Morgan, designer of the Columbian Exposition reverse, Huguenot-Walloon Tercentenary, and Illinois Centennial obverse, is remembered for his famous Liberty Head/Morgan dollars. James E. Fraser, designer of the Indian Head - Buffalo nickels, helped design the Oregon Trail Memorial half. The Peace dollar designer, Anthony de Francisci, modified the design of the Maine Centennial half, originally done by an unknown Maine artist. Finally, former Chief Mint Engraver (and owner of some nice matte proof commemorative coins), John R. Sinnock, not only designed the Roosevelt dime and Franklin half, but also got credit for the Sesquicentennial of American Independence half, and the reverse of the Illinois Centennial half.

The husband-wife designer teams could make an interesting exhibit. Two such instances of this occurred. One team was the Norfolk, Virginia Bicentennial half designers, William Marks Simpson and his wife, Marjorie Emory Simpson. William Marks Simpson also designed the Roanoke Island and the Battle of Antietam halves. The second team composed of James Earl Fraser and Laura Gardin Fraser, who teamed up to create the Oregon Trail Memorial half. Laura Gardin Fraser turned out to be the more prolific commemorative designer of that team, producing the Alabama Centennial, the Grant Memorial, and the Fort Vancouver Centennial halves.

Plenty of topical exhibits could be done with the commemorative coins. Five commemorative coins depict presidents: the Grant Memorial, Illinois Centennial, Monroe Doctrine Centennial, Sesquicentennial of American Independence, and the Lafayette Dollar. Nearly half the commemorative coins would be needed to show all the animals used. Just as the majority of circulating U.S. coins depict the eagle, so do many of the commemorative coins. However, some commemorative coins show a variety of other animals—bear, horse, whale, moose, fish, calf, owl, oxen, wildcat, and badger can be found on the various issues.

Make an exhibit of living people depicted on coins. The practice is supposedly illegal, but this particular coinage law was completely ignored on four different occasions. The Alabama Centennial

portrays Governor Thomas E. Kilby; the Robinson-Arkansas Centennial half has Senator Joseph T. Robinson, the Lynchburg Sesquicentennial half depicts Senator Carter Glass; and finally, the Sesquicentennial of American Independence half shows President Calvin Coolidge. Please note that an interesting exhibit could be made using the Lynchburg Sesquicentennial half; Senator Glass also served as the Secretary of the Treasury, and is the only person to be depicted on a coin that also has his signature on paper currency. An exhibit could have the commemorative half, a specimen of a $5 Series 1914 Federal Reserve Note with his signature, a picture of the senator, and some background of his life.

How about an exhibit that features foreign people on commemorative coins? Queen Isabella and Columbus lead the list, followed by General Lafayette, Sir Walter Raleigh, Captain James Cook, Admiral Coligny, William the Silent, and Lord Baltimore. Ask your viewers how they would react today if a foreigner were to be placed on a U.S. commemorative. Whom would they pick to be so honored?

Another exhibit could show all the proposed legislation for commemoratives that never became law. Show this listing with the multitude of commemorative coins issued for the year 1936 (21 different types, not including all the mint marks). Compare that listing with all of today's proposals. Another exhibit could show the chicanery that went on back then, and its duplication in today's commemorative coins. A proposed listing of commemorative coins could be very interesting reading—showing those with merits, and those of a pure and simple, foolish nature.

I think it would be interesting to somehow survey your exhibit viewers on their thoughts of all the 1936 issues. Do they see them as true collectibles with artistic value? If so, would they consider the 1995-96 multitude of Olympic commemoratives as collectible? If the 1936 issues are collectibles, then it seems to reason that in 50 to 60 years from now, the Olympic issues will be sought after.

Need some more topical ideas for an exhibit? How about commemoratives that show a map, a Civil War theme, boats, Indians, soldiers, statehood and territories, city charters, the settling of the west, expositions, and more. There are at least 8 commemoratives for city charter celebrations; do you think Elgin, Illinois, could successfully petition Congress today for a commemorative? Ask your viewers.

As commemorative collectors, we already know something that other coin collectors don't know—the rich variety the series possesses. We know each commemorative has an interesting story to tell, even if some commemoratives seemed unworthy of their status. Besides trying to infuse new blood of non-coin collectors, these exhibits could also go after the traditional coin collectors. Many coin collectors often get bored with collecting their favorite series, collecting every date and mint mark. Exhibiting is a great way to show our fellow collectors the interesting stories commemoratives have to tell.

I have purposely limited my comments and suggestions here to the silver commemoratives issued 1892-1954. Exhibits could contain the gold commemoratives of that era, and the modern-day commemoratives. While we may deplore the glut of new commemoratives coming out of Washington today, we are actually just reliving 1936 all over again. These modern-day commemoratives are coins that will be eagerly sought after in the years to come. They certainly are worthy of an exhibit.

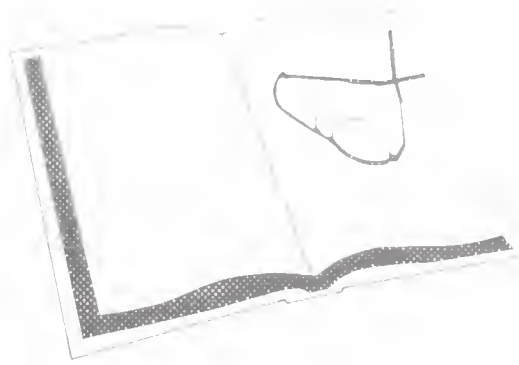
Start planning an exhibit today, and good luck!!!

* * *

RECOMMENDED READING

by Helen L. Carmody (R-0007, CA)

We were very much pleased to read a number of articles about our favorites series since our Winter 1993 issue of *The Commemorative Trail* and wish to bring the following to your attention:



COINAGE magazine featured "The Non-Sense Of Congress," "Too Many Commems!," "Coin-Of-The Month Club," "As 'Mr. Commem' Sees It," "1954's Failed Commems," "Coin Capsule: 1937," and "Citizen Coin Advisors" in its March issue; "The Beauty Of Commems" and "Coin Capsule: 1984" in its April issue; "When 'Unc.' Is Better Than Proof" and "Getting Into Circulation" in its May issue; and "New Coins of World War II," "The New Jefferson," and "What Do You Want?" in its June issue. (*COINage* is published by Miller Magazines, Inc., 4880 Market Street, Ventura, CA 93003-7783; $23 for 12 monthly issues.)

Coins magazine featured "A U.S. Olympic Tradition" in its May issue. (*Coins* magazine is published by Krause Publications, Inc., 700 East State Street, Iola, WI 54990; $22.95 for 12 monthly issues.)

In the May issue of *The Numismatist* was a feature focusing on our nation's third President, the subject of a commemorative dollar celebrating the 250th anniversary of his birth, "New Laurels for a Renaissance Man." (*The Numismatist* is the monthly publication of the American Numismatic Association, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279; regular [age 18 through 64] membership, $26 yearly.)

The Coin Dealer Newsletter Monthly Supplement contained an in-depth article pertaining to our favorite series. The March 11th issue focused on "The Boone Bicentennial: A Legend of the Land, History In Your Hand." If you don't receive the CDN as a subscriber (and you should!), by all means, send for a copy of this issue—fun reading and an interesting and entertaining analysis of the design as well as the price history from January 1980 to March 1994. (*The Coin Dealer Newsletter* is published by CDN, Inc., P. O. Box 7939, Torrance, CA 90504; the weekly *Greysheet*—including the *Monthly Supplement* and *Quarterly*—is $54.00 for six months and $98.00 for one year; the single-copy price of the *Monthly Supplement* is $4.00.

There were also many articles in our numismatic newspapers pertaining to commemorative coins. A listing of some of them follows:

Coin World articles of interest to our members were "Olympic Officials Reject Designs for 1995-96 U.S. Olympic Coins," "New Commem Coin Bills Unlikely Item on 103rd Congressional Menu," "Taken for 'Granted'" and "'Act of Rare Shamelessness' Reaction to Design Change," in its February 14th issue, "Design Panel Reviews Revised 1995-96 Olympic Coin Designs" in its February 21st issue, "Mint Plans Special Packaging for Each World Club Match Site" in its February 28th issue, "1805

Jefferson Portrait Serves as Inspiration for '94 Commem Dollar," "Commemorative Coin Sponsors to Meet with Advisory Committee," and "Whose Coins Are They, Anyway?" in the March 7th issue, "Public Outreach Major Emphasis of Citizens Advisory Committee," "Congress Gets Three New Bills Seeking Commemorative Coins" and "Young Collectors Edition of Soccer Coins Sells Out" in its March 14th issue, "Advancing Knowledge of Olympic Numismatics Goal of U.S. Group" and "Book Chronicles 1904 Exposition Memorabilia" in its March 28th issue, "Commission OKs Designs for U.S. Veterans Commems" in its April 4th issue, "Committee Seeks Commem Ideas" in its April 11th issue, "1994 Silver Dollar to Bear Names of 11 Soldiers Who Died in Vietnam" and "Jefferson Commem Sales Start in May" in its April 18th issue, "Special Olympics Coin Gets Quick Senate Ride" and "Jefferson Dollar on Sale in May" in its April 25th issue, "Determining History," "Mint Sells Nearly 1 Million Soccer Coins" and "Put Joy of Collecting Back into Commemorative Coins" in its May 2nd issue, "Hawaiian Half Dollar" in its May 9th issue, "Advisory Committee Working on Criteria," "Lewis and Clark Expedition Logs Recall Medals from Arduous Trek," "It's Time for Circulating Commems," "Mint Provides Opportunity to Recommend Coin Themes" and "Olympic Coins" in its May 16th issue, "World Cup Venue Packaging to Make Debut at Host Cities," "Pre-issue Discounts are Available for Thomas Jefferson Silver Dollars," "Diehl Vows to End Proliferation of Commemorative Coin Programs," and "Mint Accounts for Sales of 1 Million 1994 World Cup Soccer Commems" in its May 23rd issue, and "Anthony Swiatek Writes Commem Column, Shares Knowledge of U.S. Commem History," "Recalling Architect of D-Day," "Sales of Jefferson Coin Sets Not Limited," and "Birth of Commems Traceable to Coins of Ancient Peoples" in its May 30th issue. (*Coin World* [911 Vandemark Road, Sidney, OH 45365] is published weekly; $28 for 52 weekly issues.)

Numismatic News commemorative features were "Colorful Commems Sold by Superior" and "Jefferson Dollar Designs Released" in its February 15th issue, "'Venue Packages' Added to '94 World Cup Options," "Mint Looks to Speed Commem Delivery" and "Olympic Committee Chooses Coin Collectors' Pockets as '96 Draft Pick" in its February 22nd issue, "Shepherd Speaks" in its March 1st issue, "Commem Sponsors Bring Out 'Big Guns' to Push Their Bills," "Committee to Seek Club Input in Commem Choices," "World Cup Young Collector Set Sells Out," and "1985 Year of Many Ideas but No Commem Action" in its March 8th issue, "Special Olympics Games Focus of New Commem Bill" in its March 15th issue, "World Cup Commem Sales on Rise" and "Special Olympics Coin Bill on 'Fast Track'" in its March 29th issue, "Fine Arts Commission Releases Designs for Military Commems" and "House Blocks Rushmore Amendment" in its April 5th issue, "Yellowstone Commem Bill in House" and "Commem Input Sought" in its April 12th issue, "Jefferson Dollar Launched at Gala Presidential Dinner" in its April 26th issue, "Orders for World Cup Commems Show Some Slowdown" in its May 3rd issue, "Coin Sponsors Push Cause at CCCAC Meeting" and "Rushmore Coins Weren't First Choice, $1 Bills Were" in its May 10th issue, "Commem Advisory Committee Will Have Open Forum at ANA Convention" and "First World Cup Venue Packs Go to Detroit" in its May 17th issue, and "Six 'Venue Pack' Distributors Named" and "Rushmore Amendment Moves A Step Closer" in its May 24th issue. (*Numismatic News* [700 East State Street, Iola, WI 54990] is published weekly; $27.95 for 53 issues.)

These features in our numismatic periodicals are invaluable supplements to the knowledge contained in commemorative references already residing in your libraries. I hope **all** Society members subscribe to these publications. Support these magazines and newspapers; write articles and/or letters to the editor to share your knowledge and to express your views; encourage others to do the same! The printed word will remain for decades to come to spark the interest necessary to attract new collectors to perpetuate our hobby. The future of numismatics depends upon **all** of us.

A column that did *not* focus on commemorative coins but which caused me to reflect on its message appeared in the May 23rd issue of *Coin World*. Its author, whose name is synonymous with prolific numismatic writing and invaluable service to the hobby, was Society member **Q. David Bowers (R-0548, NH)**, whose weekly contributions in "The Joys of Collecting" are always worthy of our time and add to our enjoyment and understanding of the hobby. I received permission from both Dave and **Beth Deisher (R-2027, OH)**, editor of *Coin World*, to reprint this feature. I hope it causes you to reflect as much on your numismatic involvement as it did me...

Stop Doting on Hobby's Past, Begin Work Toward Its Future

"Let's boost numismatics"

How many times have you heard it said that all of us should do our part to popularize what has been called the world's greatest hobby? And yet, there are fewer American Numismatic Association members, fewer readers of coin hobby publications, and fewer collectors now than there were 10 years ago. Why?

Well, it's not for the lack of ideas. Everyone and his brother has a clue to the "culprit," the person or entity causing the problem. Some think the ANA has dropped the ball. Others believe that the dealer community is to blame for its emphasis on profits. Still others think that slabbing coins is all wrong. Or, perhaps the emphasis on investing, and the advent of Wall Street in the coin market a few years ago is where the hobby took a wrong turn. Then there is the United States Mint, which may be hurting rather than helping numismatics. Summarized, it's the other fellow who's the problem.

Today, we have the same 1816 large cents, the same $20 gold coins and the same thousands of other coins we had a decade ago. However, the coins are not "loved" as much.

Of course, this is a bit silly. If it was enjoyable to study an 1816 large cent under a magnifying glass a decade ago, and to own a Mint State specimen, and appreciate its history and rarity, it should be just as enjoyable today.

What's missing? Is anything missing?

About 10 or 15 years ago, veteran dealer John J. Ford, Jr., gave a talk titled something like "When Coin Collecting Was Fun." The implication was while it might not have been fun in 1980 (or whenever his program was given), it was fun in 1970, 1960 or some earlier date. Recently at a coin club, a visitor gave a similar talk, telling that coin collecting was indeed fun years ago! However, in his instance, "years ago" was in 1985!

The truth is that at any given time, "the good old days" might seem attractive, but back then, it was not paradise on Earth. I remember that when I became a coin dealer in 1953, old-timers would tell me that the 1953 coin hobby was terrible (what with all the investment interest in rolls and Proof sets) and that back in the 1920s and 1930s everything was wonderful.

All of this said, it seems to me that rather than daydreaming how nice the days of old might have been, we should all strive to improve the hobby today.

(Editor's Note: *Amen!*)

SHOW REPORTS

by Helen L. Carmody (R-007, CA)

ANA Early Spring Convention - March 3-5, 1994

The ANA convention held in New Orleans brought more than 3,000 people to the brief, three-day show. Generally, dealers expressed a common sentiment—public attendance was less than they had hoped. However, there was decent wholesale business, and most dealers departed the show generally pleased with what had transpired. Some of their comments were as follows:

"It was a better buying show than a selling show. However, if they were buying, then somebody was selling. My purchases ran 4 to 1 over sales."

"Public attendance was really weak. Saturday morning was the best of all show days, but that shouldn't be perceived as weakness in the market but the location of the show. It was not in a high-density population center."

"Actually, the market was strong for premium-quality coins. Those sold well. Dealers were complaining about the lack of new and quality merchandise. I didn't come close to filling my want lists, which were lengthy."

"There appears to be a dichotomy now that we have been seeing the last several months: that sales at the shows have been slow, but you can pick up the telephone and sell whatever you buy once you get home. Customers are getting tired of traveling to a show and spending days and money when they can have me do the weeding out and pay an extra $100 for a coin. They call me before I even have a chance to call them."

"If you just gauge the market on the show activity, it would be weak, but it has been very easy to sell coins recently."

Some examples of wholesale trading were as follows:

Antietam	PCGS MS-67	$2,400.00
Antietam	NGC MS-67	2,100.00
Antietam	PCGS MS-66	1,300.00
Arkansas (1936-P)	PCGS MS-64	100.00
Arkansas (1936-S)	PCGS MS-64	100.00
Bay Bridge	PCGS MS-66	875.00
California Jubilee	PCGS MS-65	775.00
California Jubilee	NGC MS-65	675.00
Cincinnati (1936-D)	PCGS MS-65	685.00
Cleveland	PCGS MS-64	120.00
Connecticut	NGC MS-66	1,450.00
Isabella	NGC MS-64 P/L	1,950.00
Missouri	PCGS MS-63	575.00
Norfolk	NGC MS-66	425.00
Oregon Trail (1937-D)	PCGS MS-67	1,100.00

Oregon Trail (1938-D)	NGC MS-68	$5,500.00
Oregon Trail (1939-P)	PCGS MS-68	6,000.00
Oregon Trail (1939-D)	PCGS MS-68	5,800.00
Oregon Trail (1939-S)	PCGS MS-68	6,000.00
Rhode Island (1936-P)	PCGS MS-64	110.00
Vermont	NGC MS-64	275.00
Wisconsin	NGC MS-67	1,500.00

[Please take note that all prices reported in "Show Reports" for commems are wholesale prices unless otherwise noted. When this material is offered for resale at the retail level, it is reasonable to expect price increases of from 15% to 30% for the most common items to much higher markups for truly scarce or esoteric material.]

* * *

CSNS Convention - April 8-10, 1994

I was unable to be at the Central States Numismatic Society convention in Indianapolis. However, over 4,000 registered visitors (excluding dealers and their assistants) attended the show. Many dealers said it was the best they had had in a long time, and collector activity was very strong.

Although I left word for several dealers to telephone or write to me with prices on commem trading, only *one* responded, and then he reported just two sales! This leads me to ask major commemorative dealers, who are also Society members, to volunteer to report prices at major conventions when I am unable to be present. We will all benefit if three or four come forward to assist me in this regard. **Please, let me hear from you!**

The two examples of wholesale trading were as follows:

Oregon Trail (1938-D)	NGC MS-68	$5,900.00
Oregon Trail (1938-S)	NGC MS-68	6,100.00

[Please take note that all prices reported in "Show Reports" for commems are wholesale prices unless otherwise noted. When this material is offered for resale at the retail level, it is reasonable to expect price increases of from 15% to 30% for the most common items to much higher markups for truly scarce or esoteric material.]

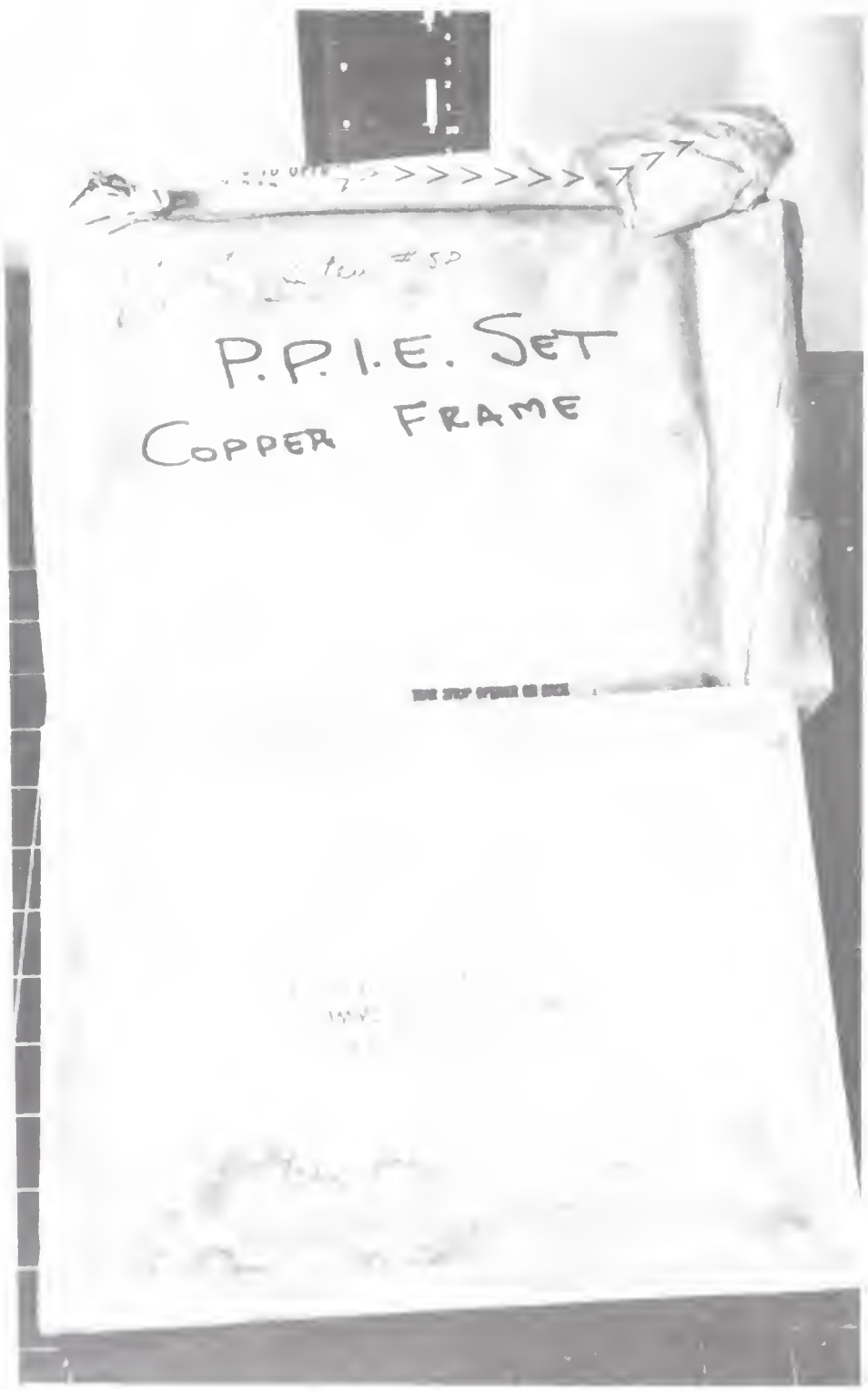
* * *

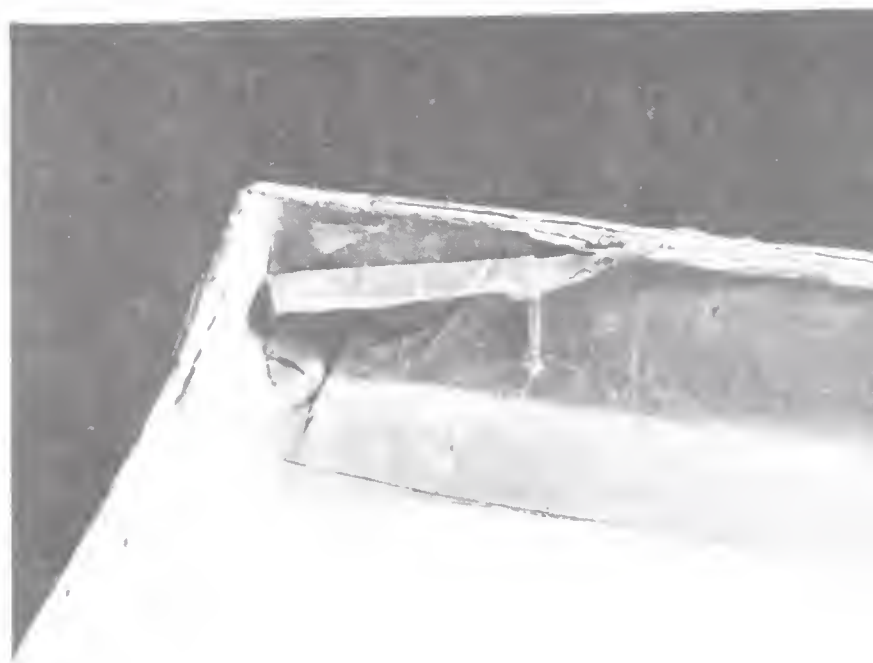
COMMEMORATIVE DOCUMENTATION COLLECTORS TAKE NOTICE! (PLUS ANYONE ELSE WHO PRIZES THE RARE AND VALUABLE)

Bob Estremera of Southern Coins Ltd. in Metairie, LA, had the rare good fortune to acquire some of the most highly prized pieces of commemorative documentation that exist—and the coins as well! Knowing of my interest in this specialized area of collecting, he very kindly sent pictures of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition pieces. [For those of you interested in the coins, PCGS graded them as

follows: 50¢, MS-65; $1 gold, MS-64; $2-1/2 gold, MS-65; $50 gold (round), MS-63; $50 gold (octagonal), MS-63.]

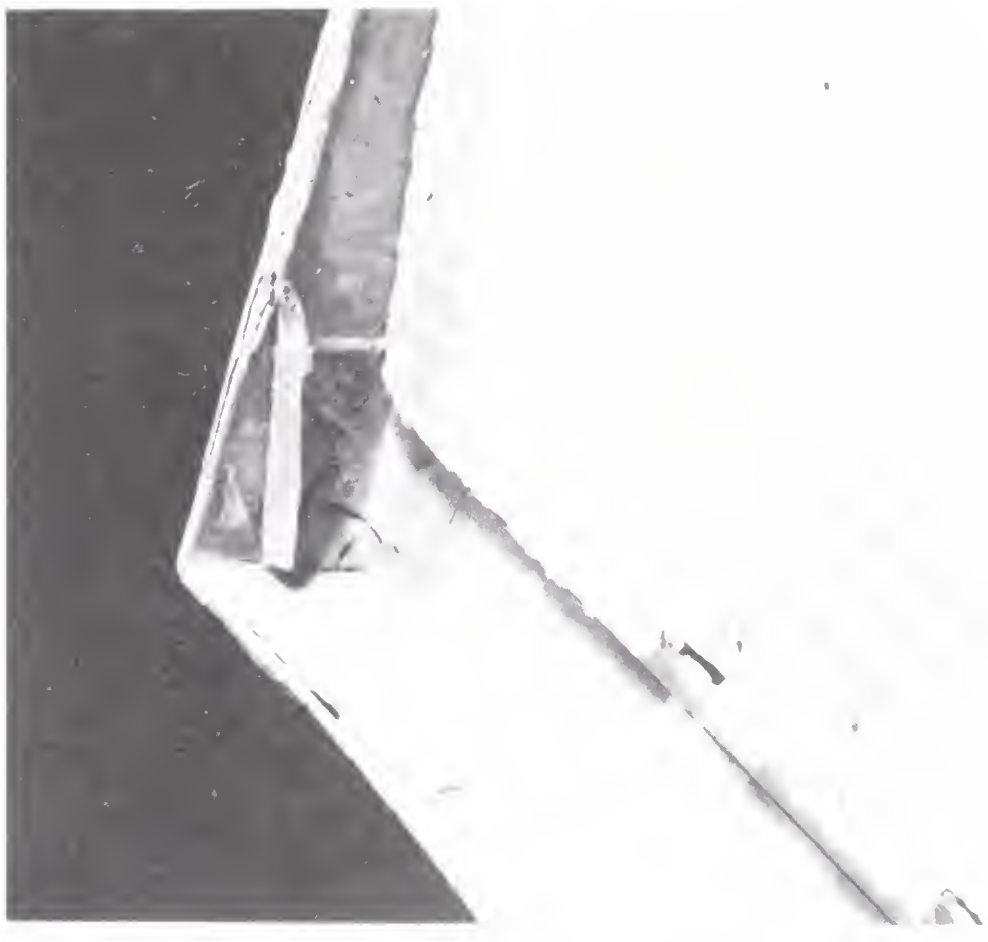
However, the documentation is itself so scarce and desirable that enthusiasts (including your editor and many others in our club) could, if possible, spend limitless time examining it and wishing it could become part of their collections. The following pages show pictures of the box **and** envelope, a single copper frame, a souvenir picture of the Ohio Building dedication on February 25, 1915, coins, etc., among other items from the Cardinell-Vincent Co., San Francisco. [Note particularly the close-up of the mailing tube and photo, the latter hand-signed by the photographer and numbered (#25).] This collection of PPIE memorabilia makes one appreciate its owner and the care he or she took to preserve these wonderful accompaniments to the coins they acquired. If only *everyone* engaged in numismatics showed such attention to careful preservation of documents, our numismatic heritage would be wonderfully complete.





Box and Envelope

Outer Box



Wrapper

Copper Frame, Photo, Tube and Coins

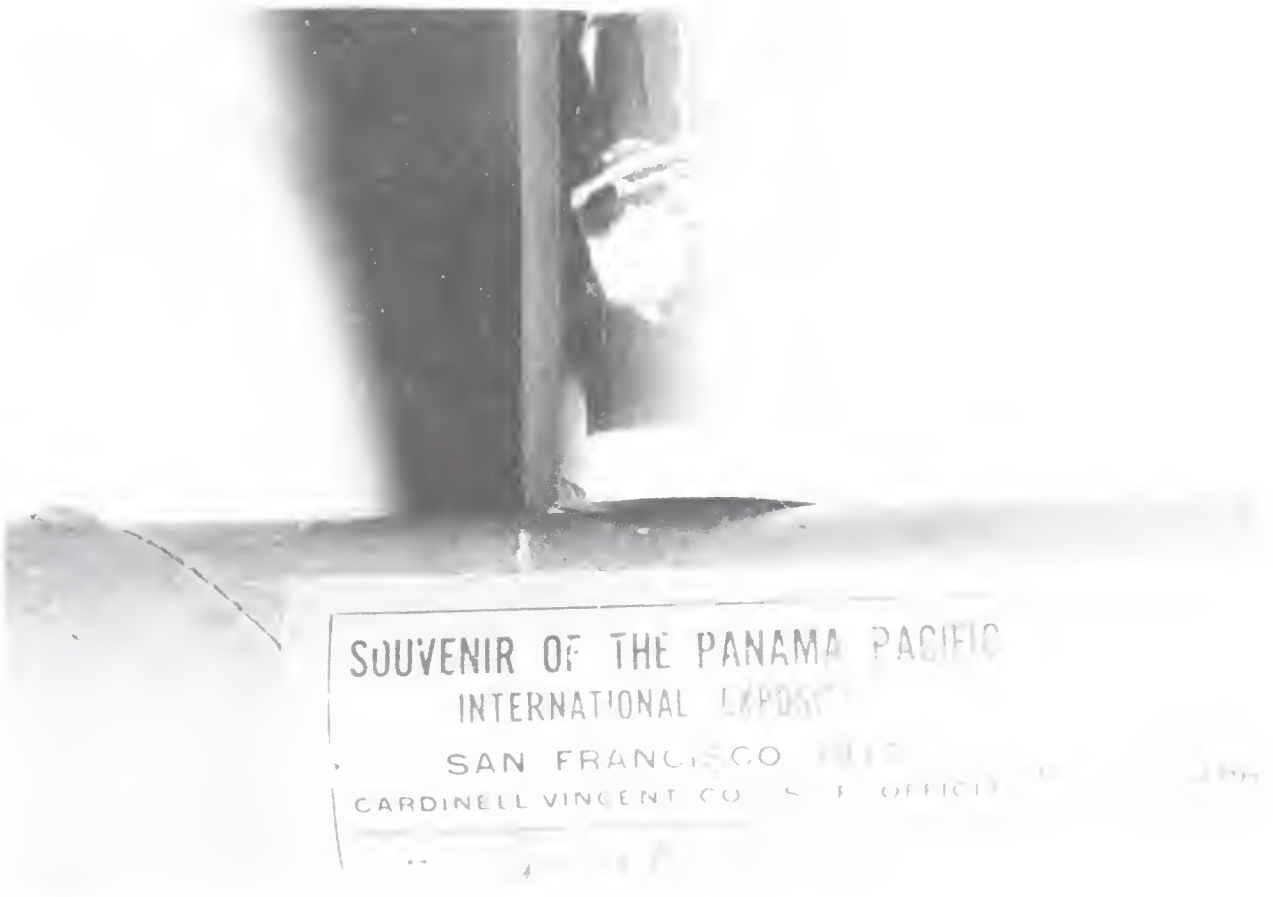


Photo #25, Tube

NEW MEMBERS

A big Welcome! to the following individuals who joined our club since the publication of the Winter 1993 issue of *The Trail*. Thanks to all Society members who are indicated as their proposers.

Now is a critical time for our club, and **all** of us should make a special effort to recruit new members. Please take a few minutes to ask friends or colleagues whether they too would enjoy being part of the Society.

Divine, Robert M. ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Dubina, John J. ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Green, Rodney D. ..... Proposed by *Coin World*
Kagin, Art M. ..... Proposed by Harry J. Forman
Lashley, David L. ..... Proposed by Q. David Bowers
Lehman, Dorothy ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Matteson, Stephen R. ..... Proposed by Frank W. DuVall
Mosiondz, Jr., Peter ..... Proposed by Anthony Swiatek
Pilitowski, Thomas M. ..... Proposed by Larry J. Shepherd
Saccenti, John C. ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Sowell, Jr., J. Ralph ..... Proposed by Helen & Don Carmody
Weymueller, Carl R. ..... Proposed by *Coin World*

* * *

DONATIONS

Jack Russell (R-0531, CA) has recently made a donation of commemorative documentation that will be included in our next auction and will accompany other materials previously submitted from **Jim Dooley (R-1809, CA), Brad Karoleff (R-0364, KY), Alan Levi (R-1161, CT), Richard Nachbar (LM-029, NY), Keith Williamson (R-0196, CA)** and others. (If I did not mention your name and you should also be listed, please let me know!) Due to the length of this journal, your officers have decided to cover the sale in, hopefully, the next issue. In the meantime our officers will confer as to the value of each donation, all of which will be either pictured or adequately described in the pages of *TCT*. Thank you for your indulgence during this busy period.

* * *

We regularly attempt to promote other specialized clubs, and our journal now focuses on a dynamic group of numismatists, the YNA.

YOUNG NUMISMATISTS OF AMERICA

by Helen L. Carmody (R-0007, CA)

In our continuing effort to promote the hobby, in general, as well as commemorative coins, in particular, we wish to call attention to worthy groups and in this issue have chosen to put the spotlight on the Young Numismatists of America and the *Young Numismatist Digest*.

"The Exclusive Journal for the Young Numismatist," as YNA's publication is called, is extremely well done. The columns are interesting and geared toward subjects that would interest juniors—or anyone, for that matter. In the issue I received recently, "YNA News" focused on awards presented to juniors at the Baltimore ANA convention. Instead of the "Letters to the Editor" we have in *The Commemorative Trail*, there is a "Letter From the Editor," in which our own **Danny C. Hoffman (J-073, SC)**, who edits the *Digest*, states his submission deadlines, gives credit to his assistant editor, **Chris Shappell (J-081, WA)**, and notes a new question-and-answer column by **John Kraljevich, Jr. (J-067, PA)**. "Club News" informed members about the ANA Portland convention and the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee. Features included articles on Japanese money, postal currency, commemoratives (a subject near and dear to my heart!), platforms for YNs running for office, toning, military payment certificates, the minting process, U.S. colonials, and a puzzle, complemented by photos from the ANA Baltimore convention and a membership application.

As one can easily see, the *Young Numismatist Digest* offers a variety of subjects to inform and entertain the reader. It is nicely formatted and has submissions from a number of members. I heartily recommend anyone's joining this very worthwhile club, which was formed to helps YNs find an appreciation in the hobby. Dues are $6 for YNs and $10 for Senior Numismatists. A check or money order should be sent to

Chris Shappell
P. O. Box 24462
Federal Way, WA 98093

* * *

NEWS FLASH!

CHERRYPICKERS' GUIDE AUTHORS ANNOUNCE FREE YN SCHOLARSHIPS

Bill Fivaz (LM-025, GA) and **J. T. Stanton (R-0935, GA)**, co-authors of *The Cherrypickers' Guide*, and Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc. [**Q. David Bowers (R-0548, NH)**], announce a special contest whereby 3 Young Numismatists can win an all-expense-paid trip to the 1995 ANA Summer Conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

To qualify for consideration, the YN must "cherrypick" a variety listed in the 3rd edition (a new variety will be acceptable if it is deemed significant enough), and submit it to either Bill Fivaz or J. T. Stanton for verification. He or she must not reach age 18 prior to submission of the coin. He or she

must also tell where and when the variety was found, indicate the purchase price, indicate that he or she alone is the discoverer, and he or she **must be ANA members** at the time the coin is submitted. All YN candidates will be on the honor system that all facts are correct. Included with the submission, the YN must write a 200-word letter indicating why he or she would like to attend the Summer Conference.

The contest will start on May 1, 1994, and will run through April 30, 1995. The three best "cherrypicks" in the opinion of the authors will be awarded the scholarships, which will include airfare, tuition, and room and board (valued up to $1,000 for each YN). The cherrypicks will be judged on, but not limited to, rarity, value, and coin condition. **Any coin submitted prior to April 30, 1995, will be considered.**

The authors and publisher want to show their appreciation to the collecting community for the overwhelming acceptance of the first two editions of *The Cherrypickers' Guide*, and feel that the scholarships are the best way. They feel it is "an investment in the future," as the future of numismatics is with the YNs.

Coins for submission should be sent to Bill or J. T. at one of the addresses below. However, they ask that you write first to ensure that they will be in town when the package is due to arrive.

Autographed copies of the book are available from J. T. Stanton at the below address. Softbound editions are $24.95, and spiral-bound editions are $29.95, both plus $3 postage and handling.

Good luck to all, but, above all, have **fun**!

Bill Fivaz
P. O. Box 888660
Dunwoody, GA 30356-0660

J. T. Stanton
P. O. Box 15487
Savannah, GA 31416-2187

One of the winners of their last contest was **John Kraljevich, Jr. (J-067, PA)**!

* * *

CLUB NEWS

by Helen L. Carmody (R-007, CA)

Michael Aron (R-0182, CA) was presented with the Member of the Year Award from the Numismatic Association of Southern California. This honor recognizes the individual who has given outstanding services and selfless dedication to the NASC during the past year. Mike sponsors a yearly auction to benefit the NASC and actively promotes the hobby and NASC at his own expense. We are indeed honored to have Mike as a Society member.

The first recipient of the American Numismatic Association's Outstanding Regional Coordinator Award was **Helen L. Carmody (R-0007, CA)**. The presentation was made during the ANA Early Spring Convention in New Orleans, LA, in March. The recognition was based upon Helen's support of the ANA to her community through local coin shows, sponsorship of new ANA members, recruitment of

clubs to the ANA, and interaction and personal commitment to the district delegates and club representatives in her region, California and Hawaii.

David L. Ganz (R-1688, NY), president of the American Numismatic Association, announced an Olympic coin exhibit will travel throughout the United States on public display thanks to the ANA. It will be geared to non-collectors and specifically focus on Olympic coins through history showing their beauty and lore. Look for it at a bank near you soon, or ask your bank to have the ANA send it. For details telephone the ANA at 1-800-367-9723.

Gwen G. Heistand (R-1860, CA) received a commendation from the Long Beach (CA) Unified School District for contributing to students' well-being, exhibiting awareness of the value of a caring community, supporting the programs assisting student achievements and putting heart in public education. Gwen, our sincere congratulations!

Society members should remember that **Paul L. Koppenhaver (R-0700, CA),** who was the recipient of the American Numismatic Association's Presidential Award in February, and **Ron J. Gillio (R-2101, CA)** are continuing their free admission policy for coin-club members when they attend the Long Beach Numismatic, Philatelic and Sports Card Exposition held three times each year in February, June, and October. Paul and Ron always have the interests of the hobby at heart and could not be more accommodating to our club in connection with our regular meetings there. Remember, the Society is a "fixture" on the Expo's agenda: Saturday at 9 a.m. Please join us there, and, by all means, extend our thanks to Paul and Ron for all they have done to promote the SUSCC!

David W. Lange (R-1779, CA) was presented the prestigious Numismatic Ambassador Award by Cliff Mishler, president of Krause Publications, during the 26th Annual California State Numismatic Association Educational Symposium held in March. Dave is certainly a very deserving recipient and complements those who have already been recognized for their efforts on behalf of our hobby.

Craig A. Whitford (R-0808, MI) will be the auctioneer on the American Numismatic Association week-long numismatic cruise to the Caribbean in February 1995. Passengers will travel aboard a luxurious Holland America liner and will have the opportunity to take part in the only coin auction at sea, a coin bourse and swap session, an ANA coin grading seminar, and other numismatic events. Call toll-free 800-876-OMNI or write to Omni Group Cruises, Inc., 7033 Sunset Boulevard, Suite 214, Hollywood, CA 90028.

Jerry Yahalom (R-1060, CA) and **Mary Yahalom (R-1784, CA)** were named American Numismatic Association District Delegates serving clubs in Southern California. These ANA Representative Program volunteers do much to promote our hobby by assisting not only coin clubs but individual members and deserve all of our thanks for sacrificing personal time and energies to further our hobby. Jerry is also vice president of the Numismatic Association of Southern California, and both he and Mary are the publishers of *The NASC Quarterly*, the official publication of the organization.

NOTES

Application for Membership

Society For U.S. Commemorative Coins

P.O. Box 302

Huntington Beach, CA 92648

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

I hereby make application for membership in the Society For U.S. Commemorative Coins, subject to the bylaws of said Society. My yearly dues (August to August of each year) at $20.00 per Adult, $8.00 per Junior, or $350 for Life Membership are included with this application. Check one below.

Adult ☐ Junior ☐ Life ☐

Please Print or Type

Last name _____

First name _____ M.I. _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Daytime Telephone ( ) –

Signature of Applicant _____

Date _____

Signature of Proposer _____ Member Number _____

Birth Date – Junior members only

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

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Huntington Beach, CA 92648

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Date _____

Signature of Proposer _____ Member Number _____

Birth Date – Junior members only

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

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Society For U.S. Commemorative Coins

P.O. Box 302

Huntington Beach, CA 92648

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